Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-94-138 *19 July 1994*

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Cuba

Haitian Refugees at Punta de Maisi Camp Number 400

FL1907013594 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Jul 94

[From the "NTV" newscast]

[Text] With the arrival on Sunday of two more boats, the number of Haitian refugees at the Punta de Maisi camp has reached approximately 400. In the last two weeks, six boats have washed up on Cuba's eastern shores with 351 people on board due to the massive exodus caused by increased U.S. pressures on Port-au-Prince. Sunday's landings were reported through Moa, Holguin Province, and Punta de Maisi. These refugees will receive humanitarian aid from Cuban authorities until they voluntarily return to Haiti.

Russian Foreign Ministry: Cuban Market Still Priority

FL1907014894 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Jul 94

[From the "NTV" newscast]

[Text] Today, Vladimir Tyurdenev, director of the Central and South American Department of the Russian Foreign Ministry, stated that the Cuban market retains a prioritized position in Russia's foreign economic relations. In a speech at the extended session of the lower chamber in Moscow, the diplomat pointed out that economic-trade relations with Cuba are profitable for Russian producers and entrepreneurs. Tyurdenev expressed the Russian Government's interest in continuing the purchase of sugar from Cuba.

Ecuadoran Public Health Minister on Cooperation

FL1807123594 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Interview with Ecuadoran Public Health Minister Dr. Patricio Abad Herrera by correspondent Eva Alvarez Carvajal; date and place not given; from the "National Radio News"; first paragraph announcer-read introduction—recorded]

[Text] Cuban Public Health Minister Dr. Julio Teja Perez and Ecuadoran Public Health Minister Dr. Patricio Abad Herrera have signed a scientific-technical cooperation agreement on projects and programs that will benefit health care in both countries:

[Alvarez] In what areas can Cuba and Ecuador establish trade?

[Abad] The Ecuadoran foreign minister's visit to Cuba this month will be timely. He will arrive knowing that we have already initiated the cooperation process. He will certainly have specific questions on the issue. We need to consult the government of the Republic, which I am sure will be welcomed with open arms.

[Alvarez] Has Cuba's meningitis vaccine been used in Ecuador?

[Abad] No. Unlike Peru and some other Latin American countries, we have not had an outbreak of meningitis. Nevertheless, it would be prudent to add the meningitis vaccine to the battery of vaccinations for children and adults. We should not wait for an epidemic.

[Alvarez] How would you describe the International Neuropathy Epidemic Workshop and Cuba's efforts in that area?

[Abad] Obviously, much has been done since that sickness appeared. The truth is that Cuba has exerted tremendous effort. Cuba has worked hard. The international scientific community responded. Several countries, including the United States, maintained a scientific presence through various institutions from the time the disease first appeared in Pinar del Rio until it turned into a massive epidemic affecting approximately 50,000 people. Work has continued, and no one has rested.

[Alvarez] Agreements should materialize on marketing basic medicines, vaccines, and other immunobiological products and in the area of neurosciences, medical equipment, and maintenance.

Text of GRANMA Article Responding to Clinton Message

94CA0125A Havana GRANMA in Spanish 2 Jun 94 pp 4, 5

[Article by Luis Baez Delgado: "Public Letter to a President"]

[Text] We are not in the mood for verbal warfare, nor can a people engaged in the supreme task of salvaging with steadfastness and sweat the accomplishments that others have endangered, devote itself to such an effort, which is typical of occupations less important than the mission of soldier and builder to which the future of our children and the security of our homeland have summoned us.

However, above and beyond the language of protocol and even the clear desire and obvious willingness of the government and people of the Republic of Cuba to maintain normal relations of equality and mutual respect with any country in the world, including the United States, there is our unshakable determination to defend, even under the most trying circumstances, the sovereignty and independence of the Cuban nation, which is now being threatened as never before in its history.

If we have gotten to where we are today and if we are still here, it is simply because we have learned from our founding fathers (and we have been consistent in this

regard) never to make the slightest concession on this principle and never, in any way, to allow our right to be free and independent to be even questioned owing to grievous error, bad faith, or crass ignorance of the character of real Cubans.

It is for this reason that the public statements made by Mr. William Clinton on 20 May cannot go unanswered. His so-called message to our people, who have been systematically assaulted and blockaded by the country that he heads, shows more than just the U.S. Government's desire to continue fomenting a climate of confrontation with Cuba, thus ignoring the international outcry that has condemned the dreadful blockade of the island twice at the United Nations already; it also clearly illustrates his unawareness of the real history of our country and its relations with the United States of America.

The date 20 May 1902 was not Cuba's independence day. It was the day on which the crime of snatching from Cubans the independence for which they had struggled for more than a century was pseudo-legally perpetrated.

The 20 May date came about because the army of men and women who took after Bolivar and Lafayette, who from the redeeming hills shook the world with their tenacity and heroism, struggling against far superior forces, living on roots, and dressed in rags, was discharged and disbanded. Thus, the heroism of an entire era served only so that those decent, honorable men and women, to whom even their enemies bowed respectfully, could watch a flag other than the single star waving over the fields on which their dead lay and receive 75 pesos for the weapons that they wrested from the enemy at the cost of their lives during the years of struggle.

The events of 20 May 1902 came about because the sly, greedy nation that had had its sights on us ever since the previous century did not come up against a united people and an undisputed leader who together at the noble hour of victory could have prevented the opportunistic dagger of U.S. intervention from being treacherously plunged into our Homeland's flank.

We Cubans do not commemorate 20 May, and when we mention it (because our children must be taught about the tortuous path that we have been forced to travel), we do so with the same repudiation and scorn with which Americans recall that bitter day in 1777 when the British, under the command of General Howe, occupied the city of Philadelphia.

Moreover, Mr. President, it is true, as you say, that "there is a long history" between Cuba and the United States, but not exactly one of "cooperation and admiration."

In 1889, U.S. newspapers, and specifically the 16 March edition of the Philadelphia-based THE MANUFACTURER, were discussing the absurd idea that the United States ought to annex my Homeland, all the while questioning the integrity and dignity of the Cuban people.

The article in question, entitled "Do We Want Cuba?", which prompted a devastating reply from Jose Marti, said: "The Cubans are not much more desirable. To the defects of the native men they add effeminacy and an aversion to hard work that is truly pathological. They are shiftless, lazy, deficient in morals, and incapable by nature and experience of fulfilling the obligations of citizenship in a great and free republic."

In 1898, Major General Nelson A. Miles, the commander of the army, received from Mr. J.G. Breckenridge, the U.S. secretary of war, instructions on how to conduct the war so as to bring about the annexation of Cuba and Puerto Rico. They indicated: "Cuba, which is larger, has a larger population than Puerto Rico. It consists of whites, blacks, Asians, and mixtures thereof. The inhabitants are generally lazy and apathetic. It is obvious that the immediate annexation of these individuals into our our federation would be madness, and before doing so we should clean out the country, even if this means applying the same methods as were applied by Divine Providence at Sodom and Gomorrah."

"We must destroy everything within the range of our guns. We must concentrate the blockade so that hunger and its eternal companion, disease, sap the civilian population and decimate the Cuban Army."

The first 600 U.S. Marines landed near Guantanamo on 10 June 1898. Mr. President, you most likely are not aware that those men survived thanks to the intervention of the Liberation Army's forces that came to their aid. Admiral McKeala acknowledged afterwards that "the Cubans went to save them from the panic that had gripped them since their arrival," and that "he did not know how to thank on behalf of the U.S. Government the Cubans who arrived, as if heaven sent, in the nick of time to ward off disaster for the U.S. landing party."

The U.S. Government expressed its "thanks," in line with the "long history of cooperation and admiration" that you say has existed, by prohibiting the rebel troops from entering Santiago de Cuba a month later.

Then came 20 May 1902, which gave us a Reciprocity Treaty unworthy of the name, an amendment that shamelessly curtailed our sovereignty, a naval base that still offends us, and 57 years of ignominy, scorn, proconsuls that governed Cuba from their embassy, and Marines who seeing this land as nothing more than a huge brothel did not hesitate to relieve their drunken sprees on the hallowed statues of our heroes and martyrs. For the first half of this century, Mr. President, we were the backyard of the great nation that "cooperated" with us by buying our sugar, which it then sold to us in the form of candy; that had the "freedom" to intrude on our land whenever it felt like it; that "admired" us so much...that it despised and scorned us to the point that it never acknowledged our right to fight, except when it trampled our homeland underfoot to wrest away our independence. Our parents and grandparents are already

all too familiar with the sort of "freedom," "cooperation," and "admiration" of which you speak, Mr. President.

But just as there was a Fourth of July in your country, we had a 10 October, a 24 February, a 26 July, and a 1 January. And it was precisely the Revolution that substantially changed the U.S. view of our nation.

Our women, who had been seen solely as cheap prostitutes, became heroines. Our "effeminate" men became a threat to the Empire's national security. Our "Indians" ceased to carry spears. And when pursuant to the sovereign right of every State (because after 1 January 1959 we have been no more but no less than that) we decided to prepare for our defense against virtual and probable attack, the frightened Coca-Cola cowboys screamed bloody murder. It was because we built, maintained, and will preserve this Revolution that the "unruly, brutal North" (as Jose Marti described it), which scorned us yesterday, respects us today.

It is true, Mr. President, that Jose Marti once wrote that "We love freedom, because in it we see the truth."

But what your advisers no doubt failed to tell you is that Marti voiced that idea on 14 March 1893 in the newspaper PATRIA in an article that he wrote in New York entitled "I Have Come To Give You a Homeland." Its central thesis is the need for a properly planned war to achieve the indispensable independence of Cuba and Puerto Rico, the same Puerto Rico, Mr. President, that remains a Yankee protectorate today.

What your advisers no doubt failed to tell you is what Marti said next, because I doubt that you would have then quoted him.

Marti wrote: "We love freedom, because in it we see the truth. We will die for true freedom, not for the freedom that serves as a pretext to keep some men in excessive pleasure and others in unnecessary pain (remember that he was writing from New York). We will die for the Republic afterwards, if necessary, just as we will die for independence first." (Wasn't and isn't an entire nation prepared to sacrifice itself for the Republic, as it was back in October 1962?)

The manipulation of the figure of Jose Marti and the use of his name by radio stations that pursue objectives against which he, more than anyone else, warned, fought, and gave his life, is a most painful sacrilege that the people of Cuba will never be able to forget. Treachery such as this can be accomplished only with the complicity of a shameless President who boasted that his appetite was not affected at all while his troops invaded the little island of Grenada.

Among the many opinions that he voiced about the United States, Jose Marti said: "In this unruly, lavish, and huge nation, life is merely the conquest of fortune: this is the disease of its greatness."

We learned from Jose Marti to be respectful. We may be someone's enemy, but we will not be base. We may fight with the weapons of war and ideas, which are weapons too, but without humiliating, degrading, or wounding the feelings of a people by offending the beloved heroes of the Homeland. To Cubans, one of these heroes is Jose Marti. Another is Fidel Castro.

Precisely because we are respectful, we are offended when you, Mr. President, poorly advised, profoundly mistaken, ill-intentioned, and prematurely seeking votes in your reelection campaign, describe our government as a dictatorship, assert that you will maintain the embargo, say that you hope we return to the specious freedom described above, claim that "the Law for Democracy in Cuba allows humanitarian aid and the free exchange of information and ideas" (by the way, since when does the United States have a right to pass laws for Cuba?), and congratulate an organization whose only "merit" (as a large part of the Cuban community itself in Florida already acknowledges) is that it has grown rich from the business of battling the Revolution.

If what you say is true, Mr. President, then who is violating the law in the United States? Where is this "free exchange of information and ideas"? Who denied a visa to the members of the Mezcla group, to the dancers who were to take part in the Oscar ceremony, and to our foreign minister, to mention just recent examples?

Who but your government regularly denies visas to hundreds of people who have family members in the United States and meet all requirements, just to encourage illegal departures? Do the waters of the Straits of Florida possess some magic property that automatically turns "possible immigrants" into "heroes"?

Mr. President, brazen, opportunistic policies always backfire against those who develop them. The United States once encouraged the hijacking of aircraft, a move that backfired. Another time the U.S. Government incited people to force their way into embassies, prompting the Mariel episode that caused more problems for the United States than for Cuba.

Today you are tightening the blockade in order to encourage emigration. You are indeed encouraging emigration, but your Interest Section is denying visas to tens of thousands of people. You are denying the visas but gladly taking in these people if they make it to Florida on flimsy vessels or by hijacking one. How long do you think that this devious ploy will last before it blows up in your face?

You say, Mr. President, that the organization to which you refer, the National Cuban-American Foundation, "has used democratic freedom in the United States" to achieve its purposes.

Without even inquiring about how Cuban a group founded by the CIA and subordinate to the most reactionary interests of American society can still be, we should ask whether it was in the name of "democratic

freedom" all these years that our sugar cane plantations were burned, our hog stocks infected, our factories sabotaged, our stores burned, and our men, women, and children murdered?

Can a Florida-based terrorist organization boast shamelessly, in the name of "democratic freedom," of attacking our hotels, thus endangering the lives of hundreds of citizens, Mr. President?

Before you became president, that organization embraced all of the causes of the previous Republican administrations, and its ideology is identical to that of the people who promoted war with Vietnam, the same war that you opposed. Even in the thick of the campaign they did not hesitate to show their support for George Bush. Today you congratulate them. Tomorrow they will bite your hand. It is a fact of life that those who prosper under the wing of power and who lack the integrity to make an honest living (as the great majority of the American people do) readily turn their coats, change beliefs, alter colors, and switch masters.

The day that the American middle class, thanks to which you became president, fully realizes how the taxes they pay are used to buy television stations that are not watched and radio stations that are hardly listened to; how the funds that they generously provide through their labor are used to sustain the counterrevolutionary organizations in Florida, which are like tapeworms in U.S. society; how they are denied the right to travel to and invest in a country less than hour's air time away because of the Neanderthal thinking of some in the Cuban community; the day that the middle class finds out that the nation, its nation, which prides itself on being a world leader, formulates its policy towards our country to further the interests of a community of immigrants who make up less than 0.4 percent of the total U.S. population; the day that the dynamic, enterprising U.S. middle class realizes that it has been deceived and ignored for all these years, as during Vietnam, Watergate, or Iran-Contra, on that day the Cuban-American Foundation will be finished, the blockade will be over, and the messages on 20 May will end.

Then, indeed, Mr. President, the time will have come, but not for Cuba, which saw that time come 35 years ago, on the early morning of 1 January 1959.

On that day a time of honor will have come for your country, because a powerful nation can never be regarded as whole nor be judged just if it tries to subdue by hunger those whose only "crime" is to fight for their ideas and their right to be free and independent.

Perhaps on that day, Mr. President, if you are still president, you will be able to meet in person the "dictator" who just two weeks ago, at a reception during his visit to South Africa to attend the inauguration of his great comrade in struggle, Nelson Mandela, was on his feet for two and a half hours, without a bite to eat, greeting the hundreds of crazed admirers who were desperate to shake his hand and take home with them some recollection of him.

Perhaps on that day, Mr. President, unless you are afraid that Mas Canosa, Ileana Ros, Diaz Balart, and Bob Menendez will brand you a communist, you can visit my country, meet this generous, heroic people first hand, see for yourself that a dictatorship is impossible where the people are the armed power, and have the opportunity to converse with a man whom people like Robert Redford, Jane Fonda, Ted Turner, Garcia Marquez, and Antonio Gades, among thousands of others, hold openly in high regard.

Because Mr. President, with all due respect (even though you showed more than disrespect with your little message), when you were not yet seven years of age, the Generation of the Centenary, commanded by Fidel, attacked the Moncada Barracks; saw the finest sons of an entire nation murdered by the army that the government of your nation equipped and maintained; spent 22 months in jail, which nevertheless did not dampen their spirit of struggle and unshakable faith, and defying all predictions, purchased a yacht, sailed precariously to their beloved land, and after battling like Titans for two years, shattered the Batista dictatorship at a time when no one thought that a Revolution could be undertaken against the will of the great United States.

When you as a teenager were thrilled to shake John F. Kennedy's hand, Fidel Castro, rifle in hand, was leading his people on the sands of the Bay of Pigs, combating and defeating the mercenary invasion that Kennedy had authorized.

When the children of the Generation of the Centenary set off for distant lands and on the African continent wrote one of the finest and most altruistic pages in the history of this century, those hundreds of thousands of internationalists always found some small spot to put pictures of a beloved daughter or wife or their own parents, whether it was an underground shelter or a tent (there is an unwritten law in life and war that no matter where people are and what the circumstances may be, they always bring memories of their loved ones with and in them). And alongside these pictures there would invariably be a photo, at times clipped from a magazine, of Camilo, "Che," Raul, or Fidel, without any prior agreement or order to do so (feelings do not follow human orders).

We follow ideas, not men; this is precisely why we follow Fidel. To the people of Cuba, Mr. President, he is what the glorious names of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln are to Americans.

And if we may say so, even against his own wishes, as he is not at all fond of public recognition, it is because there are men who are not their own masters, inasmuch as in their loyalty, disinterest, sensitivity, and spotless conduct they have so devoted their lives to others that they become the soul and sentiment of an entire people, who

call them by their first name and who care for them with the respect due a parent and the love due a child. He is one such man.

Before I conclude, allow me, Mr. President, to relate an anecdote.

More than a year ago I happened to come across a pamphlet setting forth some ideas that an American politician intended to implement. The pamphlet was poorly printed; the date and the author were missing, but it was legible.

As I read through it, my dismay grew. It was impossible; they are going to kill him, I said to myself. This politician was planning to do in the United States what Fidel and the Revolution had already accomplished in Cuba for more than 30 years:

"To eliminate violence in the streets and schools, to help communities open youth centers, to guarantee proper health care to each citizen, regardless of his or her social status, to prioritize the battle against the AIDS epidemic by conducting a vigorous, effective educational campaign above all, to guarantee the security, education, and health of children, to eliminate drugs from schools, to protect the rights of women in the workplace, and to take strong measures to combat violence against women," among other things.

Some time later I obtained the whole pamphlet. It was entitled: "The people come first." Its subtitle was: "Strategy for change." You were the author.

Further Reporting on GRANMA Article

WA1907133494

For further reportage on the GRANMA article responding to the Clinton message, please see the Cuba section of the 3 June Latin America DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

'Cuba Has Had No Nuclear Accidents in Over a Decade'

FL1907012394 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1946 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Cuba has had no nuclear accidents in over a decade despite an increase in the number of organizations employing ionizing radiation, radioactive materials, and nuclear energy.

This fact shows the experience accumulated by the Executive Secretariat for Nuclear Affairs, SEAN; the Cuban Atomic Energy Commission; and particularly, the corps of inspectors of the Radiation Safety and Health Center. This center coordinates and regulates radiological safety in Cuba together with the provincial delegations of SEAN, which controls the use of these advanced technologies, particularly in the medicine, industry, and agriculture sectors. Nuclear experts have emphasized the importance of the corps of inspectors created in 1985, in regulating and supervising radiological and nuclear safety.

Atomic Energy Commission Begins Publication

FL1907001694 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1941 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Over 95 percent of the reference information on the peaceful use of nuclear energy in the world is available at the Cuban Atomic Reference Center, CIEN. CIEN subscribes to the international nuclear information system of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA]. CIEN Director (Rogelio Sauners) explained that CIEN receives a valuable amount of information from IAEA.

The CIEN is observing the 10th anniversary of its creation July on 23. Additionally, the recent edition of the biannual publication NUCLEOS, published by the Cuban Atomic Energy Commission, began regular circulation, mainly to promote the Cuban nuclear program. In its editorial, the magazine refers to the strict safety system in every Cuban nuclear facility.

Weekly Notes 'Impossibility' of Full Employment

PA1907040594 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2123 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Havana, 18 Jul (NOTIMEX)—An official Cuban publication today stressed the impossibility of guaranteeing full employment to each person of working age because of the economic crisis the country is facing and the drop in the national currency's real buying power.

"Instead, we can have enough jobs to enable each family to provide for all of its members. In other words, fairness is possible," the weekly TRABAJADORES, organ of the Cuban trade unions, wrote this Monday.

"It is virtually impossible to revive under conditions of full employment the deeply constricted economy of a country which, having 11 million inhabitants, exports only $2 billion worth of products," the publication stated in an article.

The weekly called for finding "an intelligent, flexible, and gradual way for each work center to have the exact number of qualified workers it requires."

Cuba is going through a grave economic crisis following the disappearance of the Soviet Union and the socialist bloc in Eastern Europe, with which it had conducted 85 percent of its trade.

Cuban authorities contend that to the devastating effect of this situation, one must add the $44 billion in losses from the economic and trade embargo the United States has maintained for more than 30 years.

TRABAJADORES added that, according to experts, if in Cuba a neoliberal type of adjustment were to be applied, 1 million of the 3.5 million workers and employees would be left jobless.

In a recent editorial, the weekly indicated that employment is one of the most complicated and least studied realities amid the present economic crisis of the Caribbean island nation.

It said Cuba is entering a process of streamlining its labor force, and "a very painful balance between the depressed job market and the demand for job placement" is being observed.

"Our society cannot view with indifference the existence of a single person without work," the weekly said, calling for "concrete action" to guarantee new sources of employment.

Monday's commentary indicated that one of the most destructive aspects developing within the society for years has been the devaluation of employment. This is attributed to the loss of interest in salaries in light of the decline of purchasing power.

In many factories, it added, payment for output is not applied because there is no connection between the Cuban peso and access to necessary food.

After its legalization in August, the circulation of the dollar "turned upside down the scale of values and social prestige of employment," the weekly said in reference to the real power the dollar has to obtain consumer goods.

In official accounting, the Cuban peso is on par with the dollar, but on the island's black market, the exchange rate is currently 120 pesos per dollar.

Raul Castro Leads Commencement of Turquino Plan Graduates

FL1807114794 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 16 Jul 94

[From the "National Radio News" newscast]

[Text] Army General Raul Castro, Cuban Communist Party [PCC] Central Committee second secretary, led the commencement of the first 234 engineers to graduate under the Turquino Plan at the University of Savaneta, in El Salvador Municipality, Guantanamo Province, this morning. Commander of the Revolution Juan Almeida Bosque and other PCC Politburo and Central Committee members also attended. Raul emphasized in his closing address that with the efforts of these specialists and those who will follow, the Turquino Plan will win the battle to transform the Cuban mountains and will strengthen our mountainous fortifications.

Raul said: Science is the peak of knowledge. The sciences climb the peaks of the fatherland today, just as the heroic combatants who fought for Cuba's independence did in the past.

Raul Castro Addresses Frank Pais Contingent

FL1907020294 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1236 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Speech by Army General Raul Castro at the graduation ceremony of the Frank Pais Agricultural Contingent on 15 July at Guantanamo Province—recorded]

[Text] There is no need to say anything more after what we saw at today's event; after what was said by Alcides Lopez, the contingent's leader; and after what was said by Comrade Juan Carlos Robinson. I only want to make some observations.

First of all, this is the country's only agricultural contingent that grows, besides consolidating itself. [applause] The first concept could lead to a broad analysis of reasons. I will not go into that now. That should be done by you and your leaders.

Referring to this issue, I only want to emphasize that the selection was good; that the work was carried out in a systematic manner; that it was not the result of circumstances; and that things were done seriously. You get results when you work seriously, systematically, in an organized way, and with willingness. This is an example.

The third observation I wanted to make is that one day, a few years ago, I told the media in this province that the valley of Guantanamo would be a productive garden some day. I must confess that when I coined the phrase, based on objective calculations and provided that people worked well, I never imagined the results analyzed here today by [First Party Secretary Juan Carlos] Robinson. You were the main participants, along with comrades from another column who are not here, and this allowed us to ojectively observe and confirm for the first time that the idea was not mistaken and that if we continue to work like this, Caujeri Valley, Niceto Perez Valley, and all the tillable valleys in this province—incidentally, it does not have too many valleys—will become productive gardens.

Lastly, I want to emphasize my final observation. The foundation of all this, the driving force behind all this, was initiated by the 1,100 activists who originally came here—500 from the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] and 600 from the Union of Young Communists [UJC]—as well as those who joined later. This was a task organized by the party, begun by Comrade [Julian] Rizo, whom we left here for several months to accompany Comrade Eugenio Cuevas—who yesterday completed his second year in charge of the province, of having arrived in this province from Palma Soriano, Santiago de Cuba Province, where he was first secretary.

Juan Carlos Robinson, a native of Guantanamo Province... [pauses] left here because he took the wrong train. Instead of going to study in Santiago de Cuba, he ended up in Havana. He was near Havana, but he is another Guantanamo native we have sent back. He is again getting close to Havana. He is in Santiago de Cuba now

[laughter] but we will not let him leave the Eastern Army's territory, which encompases six provinces—from Guantanamo to Camaguey, as you know. I know his replacement was not welcome, but it must be, because it is necessary for the nation. I know what you have said and what the people of Guantanamo have said in this concern, and I am glad. It would have been worse if you had applauded when we took Robinson; that would certainly be tragic. However, it is wonderful that you do not agree.

On one occasion, two years ago, we led a PCC Politburo work group, which came to implement controls in this province—there was a problem with the cadres. We said Guantanamo had cadres we still needed. [Eugenio] Cuevas was brought here and a native of Guantanamo was retrieved. I hope you understand and support that decision, and I hope that the cadres elected to the party's province assembly—Comrade Rider [Diaz Leyva]—and the local National Assembly of the People's Government—Comrade [Felix] Pacheco, and the other movements carried out as a result of these changes, will continue to set an example.

Furthermore, we will continue to control this. A difficult situation prevailed here in the province barely two years ago, and you know this better than I do. A few minor changes were made, the chess pieces were moved, and the rest of the cadres were found in the province. There are magnificent cadres here—in the PCC, in the administration, in the mass organizations. If this were not so, then we would have been wasting our time for over 35 years. The same thing goes for Cuba. They must be sought, helped to grow, developed step by step. The same thing has been done here for two years.

I said this was the last observation. A group of PCC Politburo members, some of whom are here, will meet with all the PCC cadres from the six eastern provinces in Holguin—including province Politburo members, professional cadres, leading mass organizations, and UJC cadres, first secretaries of the municipal committees from all the municipalities in these six provinces, province heads of staff, etc. We will analyze all the factors, all the problems that have nothing to do with the blockade or special period—only subjective factors that we can solve! [applause]

Two days later, we will hold the same meeting in Santa Clara with the five provinces that comprise the territory between Ciego [de Avila] and Matanzas. At the end of the month, we will do the same in the capital of the Republic with the same... [pauses] with a similar group of participants. During those meetings, I intend to say, among other things, that Guantanamo was created as a province barely 18 years ago—it was previously a region—and it was, and still is, the poorest province in the country, with very little flat tillable land, as we well know. Its torrential rains fall within a short span of days, as has happened on three occasions.

Let no one tell me about the special period or lack of fertilizer or herbicide because, in barely two years, in the most acute phase of the special period, this province has steadily taken moderate but firm steps and obtained food for the country. It sends aid to Santiago de Cuba in the form of food, and will continue to do so. We will do what we can so one of the last columns, the El Salvador... [pauses] what is the number of Vilorio's [not further identified] column, the 20th or the 19th? All that land—you know it is approximately 60 caballerias—was formerly intended for citrus farms and already has an underground irrigation system. The Agriculture Ministry will grant it five caballerias for a microjet irrigation system and we will make sure it gets a microjet system so it may provide food for Santiago de Cuba and Guantanamo, on the border. [applause]

We must continue to help Santiago de Cuba because, as you well know, it is just like your province, meaning it does not have much land and the municipal capital—the hero city, the birthplace of the revolution and the second most important city in the country—now has a population of 500,000. It deserves everything we can give it and... [pauses] the aid works both ways because they send other things here, given the industrial development they have achieved.

In other words, I will mention the Guantanamo residents' example at the meetings I announced earlier, and I will mention the PCC's example, given what the communists have done. Part of them are being demobilized today. A majority of the contingent's members are from the city and the contingent represents an example I want to mention in these meetings, to urge its participants to comprise a united front rather than to become weak, given the stormy times we face. We must rise to the challenge. The commander in chief aptly said the merit lies in being a revolutionary in difficult times. [applause]

I said I wanted to emphasize the supreme example given by the party here and in Guantanamo, above all when—in addition to the problems being experienced for the last two years, in addition to being the most backward, isolated province in the eastern sector of the island—it has been hit by heavy rains three times—in May 1993, November 1993, which was the worst, and May 1994. This has resulted in losses of approximately 280 to 300 million pesos, the destructon of crops, thousands of houses, etc. We liked it very much when the province's committee and Politburo summoned all the people and told them there would be no excuses, no justifications like these natural disasters. They told the people these wounds should be stanched rather than used as pretexts when failing to fulfill the plans.

I want to thank the party and all the activists, particularly Juan Carlos Robinson, who sponsored the idea, because it sets an example. I will say this to the party leaders who attend the meetings we will hold this month. [applause] I will also tell them that the people in Guantanamo—in this case the people in the province capital,

which became the capital of the Frank Pais 2d Eastern Front for its staunch support, for the courageous sons it sent to fight in the mountains, not to mention those who fought and died waging a clandestine struggle in the city... [pauses] Just as we did in the past, we must thank Guantanamo, its people, its party, and its maximum leaders for the example they have set in this difficult special period.

To conclude, we will state something we have been saying for quite a while. The [Revolutionary] Armed Forces have proved it. So has the Ministry of the Interior, and the people of Guantanamo who now join that clear, precise, revolutionary concept. The phase, it cannot be done here is forbidden in Guantanamo! It can be done here! [applause] Long live the Frank Pais 2d Eastern Front! [crowd shouts: "Viva!"] Long live the people of Guantanamo! [crowd shouts: "Viva!"] Fatherland or death! [Crowd shouts: "We will win!"] [applause]

Alfredo Jordan Addresses UBPC Members on Agrarian Law

FL1907010994 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1155 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Report by agricultural correspondent Diosdado Maso, from the "Doing Radio" program]

[Text] Discipline and its influence in achieving production goals set by the Basic Cooperative Production Units [UBPC's] is being evaluated by the participants in the exchange of experience being held in Ciego de Avila Province. But discipline cannot be spontaneous. That is why Agriculture Minister Alfredo Jordan's statements were so important when he spoke of the judicial knowledge that members of the UBPC's should gain.

[Begin Jordan recording] Comrades, I would like to say that over the past few months, we have signed 25 resolutions appropriating land here in this country because there are farmers who no longer give their products to the state [passage indistinct] obey the laws that are established. He who breaches a contract with the state must be... [pauses] We should add that these cases are about people who have been warned many times. The truth is that discipline was relaxed to the point that a considerable volume of production contracted with the state is yet to be turned over to the state and these products have been used to reinforce the black market. The state established a law in this regard, Decree Law No. 125, which we are enforcing. People who have land for the production of tobacco and do not produce tobacco, will lose their land. I believe it is good for us to receive this documentation because we must increase our judicial knowledge. We must understand everything this country has established regarding agrarian legislation, which is quite extensive and inclusive. [end recording]

That is why I said that Minister Jordan's statements regarding judicial knowledge were so important. We will not achieve anything with the UBPC's if we are paternalistic and if we do not enforce what has been established regarding the country's agricultural-livestock production. The analysis should resume today at 1300 GMT among the 50 administrators of the UBPC's and other personnel from the Ministry of Agriculture, who are here in Ciego de Avila for this exchange of experience.

First UBPC National Meeting Addresses Operations

FL1907002894 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] The first national meeting of the Basic Cooperative Production Units [UBPC's] served to discuss the operation of these entities, which serve as a viable alternative in the development of the organization for agricultural-livestock production. During the two-day meeting, participants analyzed the most positive experiences of UBPC's in Ciego de Avila and the need for increasing production on the basis of greater yield per area, the intensive use of the land, and rationing the use of human and material resources, among other factors.

Other factors considered for greater productivity are the linking of the man to his work area. On this issue, Agriculture Minister Alfredo Jordan pointed out the need to create a connection between the maximum amount of land to be tended by a cooperativist and higher income based on superior production results.

The autonomy of the UBPC's was also an important aspect of the meeting in which Politburo member Jose Ramon Machado Ventura pointed out the harmful effects of confusing the freedom to direct production with anarchy, or with excessive patronage.

Politburo member Carlos Lage Davila, explained that the country had decreased its balance of vegetable and tuber production in the first half of the year due to the shortage of fuel, fertilizers, and other chemical products. Carlos Lage, who is also secretary of the executive committee of the Council of Ministers, underscored that the UBPC's are being organized in the right manner and at the right pace, in accordance with the complexity of food production. He went on to say that in addition to these measures, the presence of Youth Labor Army [EJT] forces in agricultural-livestock production has been increased.

Journalist Exposes 'Truth' About Radio Mambi

FL1807211194 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 16 Jul 94

["Viewpoint" commentary by Luis Orlando Pantoja; from the "First Thing" program]

[Text] Many older people may remember reporter Luis Ortega. He wrote for many of the more prominent newspapers in the 50's and lived here in Cuba during the first few years of the Revolution, until he departed for

the United States. Ortega has attracted the hatred of the Cuban counterrevolutionary organizations because he is adept at probing the spot where it hurts and of acting according to his current beliefs.

Just days ago, he wrote an article for the DIARIO DE LA PRENSA newspaper in which he made a very personal evaluation of the Haitian situation, concluding that the United States should not invade that Caribbean nation and that the blockade against the Haitian people is in fact criminal. He went on to compare it to the Cuban situation.

Naturally, Ortega has spoken negatively—which to me is good—about all those people (Tamargo) who attack Cuba from Miami, and about the immense group of journalists who have been bought by imperialism. Ortega warned that the Cuban groups manipulating what he calls the anti-Castro industry in Miami jump for joy every time they hear of a new calamity in Cuba. If we are hit by a hurricane, they are happy. If a train derails, better yet. If people protest, that is marvelous. Four people dead in an attempt to leave the country—fabulous.

Reporter Luis Ortega went on to expose the truth of the telephone calls supposedly made from Cuba and broadcast on Miami radio stations. About this, Ortega wrote the following, and I quote: They have discovered a way to keep the poor people in a constant state of agitation, people willing to believe everything said on the radio and in the media. Luis Ortega pointed out: The Radio Mambi station occasionally broadcasts telephone calls from Cuba during which they discuss how a state of rebellion grows in Cuba, how people are protesting in the streets, and that the fall of the Cuban regime is imminent. Ortega went on to say that the Cubans in Miami jump for joy when they hear how Cuba sinks in misery and horror.

The interesting point to all this, Ortega went on to say, is that these telephone calls are fake. They are calls said to originate in Cuba, but are actually made in Miami. It is a way of agitating and deceiving. It is also a way of pleasing those who enjoy the calamities that occur in Cuba.

Still, in Miami there are real estate enterprises and businesses of other kinds established with money from the Bay of Pigs invasion. This reporter said that he has had the opportunity to meet wicked, reckless individuals and counterrevolutionary groups, but that despite all this, he decided to come to Cuba last April and participate in the emigre community conference.

Therefore, if you hear one of those calls from Santa Clara or from the center of the capital, you already know what to expect because they may fool those in Miami who are living over there, and who defend that system and believe in the media—their media. One could understand if that were to happen to someone there. But those here in Cuba... [pauses] it is as if someone is trying to sell you a cat, saying it is a rabbit, and you, knowing it is a cat, buy it anyway and shout with the joy of believing it to be a rabbit. Well, that is already too much to believe.

Roundup of Economic Developments

FL1507184094

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on economic developments between 7 and 14 July.

A total of 300 of the 1,827 caballerias to be planted in Havana Province remain unplanted. They are scheduled for planting in July and August. Yam planting is behind schedule, and weeding efforts on the pumpkin and corn crops will increase. Some areas are being prepared for tomato and cabbage planting, which is slated to begin in August. (Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 9 Jul 94)

Telephone service to customers with phone numbers beginning with 40 and 41 and to customers receiving incoming calls on numbers beginning with 40 and 45 has been interrupted due to a generator breakdown at Havana's main telephone facility. (Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 11 Jul 94)

New equipment will soon be installed that will eliminate the need for public water faucets in Havana City and cut water losses over a three-month period. The equipment includes: five excavators, one 12-tonne dump truck, three compressors, one "loader [cargador]," and seven jack hammers. (Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 14 Jul 94)

Over 1,500 low-cost houses have been constructed in Camaguey Province, meeting 38 percent of the 1994 construction plan despite a shortage of cement and other materials. (Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1404 GMT 14 Jul 94)

The nine new Basic Cooperative Production Units (UBPC) that have been established in Cienfuegos Province—five in Cumanayagua and four in Abreus Municipalities—will be dedicated to the citrus harvest. Over 500 people have been called upon to harvest 313 caballerias. The province now has 201 UBPCs, including 158 dedicated to sugarcane harvesting and 34 to other crops. (Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 13 Jul 94)

The new process for making molds to repair bicycle, car, and motorcycle tires that is being used in Granma Province includes the use of charcoal, wood, sugarcane pulp, rice stalks, and other alternative energy resources. Tires and various rubber parts and spares can be repaired using this process. (Havana Radio Reloj network in Spanish 1942 GMT 14 Jul 94)

An aqueduct service has been inaugurated in Niquero municipality, Granma Province, with help from the Cuban people and UNICEF. (Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 Jul 94)

In 1994, Holguin Province hopes to cut state subsidies by 40 percent, to reduce losses to 50 percent of what they were in 1993, and to increase trade 16 percent. The province has earned over 48 million pesos so far this year. (Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 7 Jul 94)

The Cuban Workers Federation's provincial secretariat has reported that Holguin Province workers have donated one day's salary to reach 97 percent of the year's goal for financing the Territorial Troops Militia. (Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1952 GMT 11 Jul 94)

Las Tunas Province fish farmers have collected 800 tonnes of fish. (Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1947 GMT 13 Jul 94)

Matanzas Province ports have made 500,000 pesos in net earnings and continue with self-financing efforts. Over 87,000 tonnes in imports and 2,500 tonnes of exports passed through the ports by June. Matanzas authorities expect that the ports will end the year with earnings of more than 1.2 million pesos, even with only 522 workers. (Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 14 Jul 94)

Bellotex, the Matanzas textile factory, is now using acrylic fiber instead of cotton to produce light-filtering cloth for the tobacco crop, with projected savings of over $1 million. Acrylic fiber reportedly produces less waste and yields up to 17,000 square meters of acrylic cloth per tonne of raw material. Although 1993 production amounted to 11.5 million meters, the 1994 goal has been set at 14 million meters. (Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1958 GMT 12 Jul 94)

Tobacco farmers in Consolacion del Sur Municipality, Pinar del Rio Province, will end the 1993-94 tobacco harvest with over 2.9 million bales of tobacco leaves, more than 100,000 bales of higher quality tobacco than last year. Workers strived to conclude the harvest before 26 July, as a salute to the 41st anniversary of the Moncada barracks attack. (Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 8 Jul 94)

The Los Palacios rice farming complex, in Pinar del Rio Province, aims to produce 20 percent of the 100,000 tonnes of rice Cuba is set to produce this year. The complex faces problems with the number of available combines: The complex was slated to have 71 combines, of which only 36 have arrived. This shortage of combines could have an effect on the 62 caballerias of rice that are ready for harvesting. The complex lost almost 300,000 quintals of rice last year because of this problem. (Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 11 Jul 94)

Three Italian nongovernmental organizations with European Union financing, the Italian-Cuban Friendship Association, and the Cuban Government will spend more than $3 million in carrying out three technical cooperation programs. The programs will address: vegetable production; animal- powered equipment; seed production; and the corn, soy, and sorghum crops. The bulk of the work will be conducted at the Iliana Dimitrova Agricultural Research Institute, the Agricultural Mechanization Institute, and five UBPCs in Pinar del Rio and Havana Provinces. The goal is to work with the Cuban bodies to ensure self-sufficiency. (Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Jul 94)

The one-half tonne of medicine Chile's "Vuelta de Mano con Cuba" solidarity group has donated to Cuba has been earmarked for Salvador Allende and Miguel Enriquez Hospitals, in Havana City. The donation was made at the Cuban Embassy in Santiago. (Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 13 Jul 94)

Pierre Cardin will market Cuban cigars under the Maxim's label in agreement with Cubatabaco, a state enterprise that produces and markets tobacco for export. Two or three million cigars will be produced in the first year. (Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 12 Jul 94)

Suchel, the soap and perfume enterprise, produced more than five million pesos more in goods during the first six months of 1994 than during the same period last year. Currency sales for the six-month period reached $8 million, even though the goal was only set for $5.8 million. (Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1943 GMT 11 Jul 94)

Workers at the Antonio Guiteras Mill have put a plant to produce "anticorrosives" into operation. This small industry, the only one of its kind in Cuba, can produce four tonnes a day and relies on sugar byproducts. (Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 11 Jul 94)

The Special Municipality of Isla de la Juventud's milk production during the first half of 1994 increased by more than 95,000 liters over the same period last year. Meanwhile, the Commandante Pinares, which can carry 800 passengers, is undergoing quick engine and electrical system repairs in an effort to boost maritime transportation levels to Isla de la Juventud. (Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1938 GMT 14 Jul 94)

Haiti

Cedras Meets With Balaguer in Dominican Republic

FL1807224894 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in Creole 1130 GTM 18 Jul 94

[Text] The main headline in the news is the meeting this past weekend between General Raoul Cedras and Joaquin Balaguer in the Dominican Republic, an effort to find a solution to the Haitian crisis, according to a reliable source. The two leaders spoke, focusing on the Haitian crisis, as the Dominican Republic is required to put Haiti under embargo by the terms decided by the international community.

Gen. Cedras spent several hours conversing with Balaguer, who reputedly opposes Jean-Bertrand Aristide and who has traditionally helped the current regime deal with the embargo by not enforcing it at the Haitian-Dominican border. During the period when the latest sanctions against Haiti went into effect, the international community forced the Dominican Republic to respect its sanctions. A contingent of UN police were dispatched to the Dominican Republic to protect the border between Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Since then, Joaquin Balaguer has been obliged to respect the sanctions at the Haitian-Dominican border, where fuel and many other products had been smuggled into Haiti. This week, fuel is a bit rare in Haiti and its price has begun getting higher. Today, a gallon of gasoline costs $28 [140 gourdes] in Port-au-Prince. We should point out that the Dominican Republic had a dialogue with the United Nations to acquire a list of food and medicines that can enter Haiti. Since then, we have not had news as to whether those products enter the country, although the United States gave the green light for some products to enter Haiti via the Dominican Republic.

[Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in Creole at 1815 GMT on 18 July reports during its "Haiti Today" program that Haitian Army General Headquarters has denied reports that Army General Raoul Cedras met Dominican President Joaquin Balaguer over the weekend. Signal FM explains that the reports stemmed from a so-called rumor carried in the U.S. press that Cedras and Balaguer had met]

Jonassaint Replaces Defense, Planning Ministers

FL1907125094 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Our first report is on two changes to the Jonassaint cabinet: The interior and national defense and planning, external cooperation, and public administration ministers have been dismissed. Former General Carl Michel Nicolas has been appointed interior and national defense minister, replacing Professor Willio Noailles; Andre Saint-Julien has been appointed planning, external cooperation, and public administration minister, replacing Emmanuel Ford, half-brother of Cap-Haitien Archbishop Monsignor Francois Gayot.

The Jonassaint government has provided no explanation for the ministerial reshuffle, the first since the current team was installed in May. It should be noted that Nicolas, interior and national defense minister, previously led this ministry in the Marc L. Bazin government.

Capois Lamort: Radio Democracy in Port-au-Prince

FL1807221294 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GTM 18 Jul 94

[Excerpts] The Capois Lamort Organization [OCL] denies that Radio Democracy broadcasts its programs from a U.S. military plane. In a telephone statement, the OCL spokesman protests that the people's money is being used to finance this radio station. We suggest that you listen to an excerpt from the statement by Franck Pierre.

[Begin Pierre recording, in Creole] While Aristide is eating his breakfast [previous word in English], his lunch, and his dinner, the Haitian people are eating garbage. Now, it is being said that the people should listen to him over a radio station broadcasting from the air, which is untrue. There is no plane in the air with a radio station aboard. This is not true. The radio station is in Port-au-Prince. [end recording]

Since last weekend, Radio Democracy has been broadcasting political statements by President-in-Exile Jean-Bertrand Aristide between 1830 and 2000. OCL is its first stumbling block. Pierre calls for calm and watchfulness. Engineer Franck Pierre asks the provisional government to open an inquiry into the existence of this radio station, which OCL describes as pirate radio.

Ralph Elie, director of the National Council of Telecommunications [office in charge of attributing frequencies to radio and television stations in Haiti], already termed this U.S. initiative illegal, a violation of Haitian law. Radio Democracy broadcasts statements that can motivate the soldiers of the Haitian Armed Forces for the purpose of uprising. [passage omitted]

The United States continues to pressure the Haitian military for the return of President Aristide, who was overthrown on 30 September 1991 by a military coup d'etat. OCL advises that Father Aristide will never be able to return to power.

MOJEP Denounces Plot To Kill Evans Paul

FL1807231094 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GTM 18 Jul 94

[Excerpts] The Movement of Young Patriots [MOJEP] demands the departure of the commander in chief of the Army and of the Jonassaint government and expresses indignation at the escalation of violence in Haiti and threats brandished against those who sympathize with the president-in-exile. Let us listen to [first name indistinct] Herve, spokesman for MOJEP, before the microphone of Signal FM.

[Begin Herve recording, in Creole] MOJEP is surprised to hear that the unscrupulous, pillaging assassin of a de facto government of Emile Jonassaint decided to gag the press on 14 July. MOJEP classifies this decision as a decision by stone-hurling lunatics. MOJEP blames the international community, especially the United States, for all repressions and destructive actions against the nation since the 29-30 September criminal coup d'etat, because the United States does not wish to see the country's political crisis resolved. [passage omitted]

MOJEP denounces a Machiavellian plot by the de facto government of Emile Jonassaint and the Haitian Army to assassinate Port-au-Prince Mayor Evans Paul this

week. For all those reasons, MOJEP asks for the resignation of the Army and the de facto government of Emile Jonassaint so the Haitian people can catch their breath. [end recording]

It should be said, it should be added to this revelation by the MOJEP leader, that Port-au-Prince Mayor Paul last week, on Signal FM, denounced this plot, hatched according to him, by the Jonassaint government.

Police Open Investigation of Gressier Murders

FL1907000894 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] The metropolitan military department reportedly opened an investigation following the recent discovery of the bodies of young people in Gressier. According to the initial elements of this investigation, the Port-au-Prince police indicate that no shot was heard in the commune of Gressier in the eve of 10 to 11 July. Moreover, only three corpses were discovered by the police, which led them to the mortuary of the Haiti State University Hospital. The military department of the metropolitan area asserted that it deplores the attitude of cynical political activists, profane people who use dead bodies as political scenarios.

National Mediation Council Urges Dialogue

FL1907000094 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] In Port-au-Prince, the National Mediation Council [Conseil National de Mediation] has published its first bulletin.

This committee, composed of Haitian personalities including former ministers and former diplomats, has presented the concept of a national dialogue table. In this bulletin, published in the form of a booklet, the Mediation Council recommends the mediation table and ideological consensus to solve the crisis. The Haitian nation is today facing a double challenge: to modernize its economy and to democratize its political life. These two processes, according to the authors of the bulletin, members of the Council, cannot develop without a minimum of dialogue among the various social partners; and, according to the Mediation Council, this dialogue seems quite possible due to the movement of associations that has absorbed the country over the past few years. The members of the National Mediation Council will present their work in a press briefing on 20 July.

Foreign Secretariat Condemns Argentine Bomb Attack

PA1907022494 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0037 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Mexico City, 18 Jul (EFE)—The Government of Mexico has condemned the attack against the Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association that took place today in Buenos Aires and left an initial toll of 17 dead and 127 wounded.

"Mexico condemns acts of terrorism," said the Foreign Relations Secretariat (SRE) in a communique issued a few hours after the attack. The SRE said that, in addition to inciting to violence, such actions "are a cowardly attack against personal safety and human life."

EZLN Committee Invites Bishop To Join Commission

PA1807130094 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 14 Jul 94 p 6

[Communique issued by the Clandestine Indian Revolutionary Committee-General Command (CCRI-CG) of the Zapatist National Liberation Army (EZLN) "from the mountains of southeastern Mexico" on 8 July]

[Text] Communique of the Clandestine Indian Revolutionary Committee-General Command of the Zapatist National Liberation Army 8 July 1994.

To Mr. Samuel Ruiz Garcia,
Bishop of the Dioceses of San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas.
National Mediation Commission.

Bishop:

The CCRI-CG of the EZLN would like to invite you to join the National Mediation Commission in order not to halt the search for a political resolution of the conflict.

We salute you and are pleased you have agreed to join the National Mediation Commission that led to the San Cristobal dialogue late in February and early March 1994.

As we have reported, our rejection of the proposed agreements with the federal government does not mean a rejection of a continued search for a dialogue and a peaceful acquiescence of our demands.

The San Cristobal dialogue was only a step along the path for peace with justice and dignity. We have been informed that Jorge Madrazo Cuellar has been appointed to the peace commission. We are notifying him that the information sent to the EZLN should be sent through the San Cristobal Dioceses should you again agree to join the National Mediation Commission. We are also urging Jorge Madrazo, of the new peace commission, so he will do his very best to create an atmosphere favorable to the holding of peaceful elections and the probable resumption of dialogue for peace between the EZLN and the supreme government.

We sincerely hope that you will agree to join the new National Mediation Commission and that the steps for a public, true, and just dialogue will continue to advance for the good of our peoples.

Respectfully,

From the mountains of southeastern Mexico,
CCRI-CG of the EZLN,
Mexico, July 1994.

Marcos Sends Letter to Four Publications

PA1907040694 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 14 Jul 94 p 17

[Letter from Subcommander Marcos to the weekly PROCESO, dailies LA JORNADA and EL FINANCIERO, and local San Cristobal de las Casas daily TIEMPO, 10 July]

[Text] Gentlemen: There are communiques on "foreign financing" and on the new peace commissioner. In addition, at no extra cost, an introduction to secondary editions and pirated communiques. You are welcome, but no need to say that...yet.

I am moved to tears by the charges made by the self-styled deputies of (does anyone have any doubts?) the PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party], Ramon Mota and Cuauhtemoc Sanchez. Will someone please do me a favor and tell these gentlemen that if we had had foreign financing, we would be appointing the peace commissioner; Messrs. Ramon Mota and Cuauhtemoc Sanchez would be in jail and tried as illegals and for fraud and embezzlement; the San Cristobal dialogue would have been held in Ajusco; and we would currently be discussing the possibility of granting the "Institutional Revolutionary" the recognition of a "political force in formation." To conclude, it would have been easier to blame us for "creating the appropriate atmosphere" for the "Battle of the Angel" and for facilitating the penalties (is that how it is written?)

Greetings, and an antacid for the hangover due to an excess of Bulgarians.
From the mountains of southeastern Mexico
Rebel Subcommander Marcos

P.D. [expansion unknown] put away the pennants for four years. I would have put in Hugo. It was not Miguel's fault. Emilio is the one to protest against ("the one who pays gives the orders"). Maradona was a crime. Let's see when the FIFA [International Soccer Federation] will have its 1 January.

P.D. what does a motion represent at a meeting; the meeting asks if the motion is of order or of procedure. The P.D. explains that in truth it is a motion to the motion; the meeting opens a debate to see if it will proceed. Seventeen hours later, the P.D. takes over the

microphone by surprise, shakes his disheveled hair, blankets the assembly with the light of his gaze, and says with a presumptuous tone:

"Consensus is the guarantee the minority has to impose its will on the majority."

P.D., illuminated by the light of the fire, explains that a revolution must take place and tells a story for children dressed up as adults and for adults dressed up as children. The name of the story is Of Elephants, Ants, and Revolutions.

Julio Cortazar said Marcel Duchamp used to say that elephants are catching, while Julio used to say he would add that revolutions are also catching.

And for the ants. Julio, you simply have to go to my headquarters where, with patience and dedication, they have ensconced themselves in the walls, the floor, and even the roof. Oh yes, food will become scarce, but we will have ants for a long time; rather they have us, and peaceful coexistence is our guarantee of survival. The elephants, it is clear, confirm once again that nature imitates art, and this large asymmetry reconciles one with oneself.

I think history will hand down justice one day to the elephants, particularly if they are violet with green trunks. This noble and modest being has a great deal in common with the ants. Even though their relationships, as "brilliant" expert politicians would say, are Cold War (that in our America is on the verge of boiling over). You see that I am right? As soon as one talks about elephants and ants, the intelligence service made in Fort Gullick [previous four words in English] comes knocking on your door. The elephant is not at all disturbed by this, while the ant has enough work with the sugar I spilled when I served myself some coffee.

Well, I was trying to say that ants and elephants have suspicious similarities. For example, children like elephants, but one can notice that the circus and zoo owners do not share this enthusiasm, each time more quelled by the "musical" groups and others dressed in outer space gear (at least that is what they think). Otherwise, I do not understand how they can force the pachyderms to travel in such dark and uncomfortable trucks? Anyway, the elephants are misunderstood beings, and so are the ants. For example, the other day a health worker gave me a long speech on how unhygienic ants are and on all the benefits we would reap by destroying them.

I do not believe this. Besides, with the fondness I feel for them, they would end up winning that small war and would weaken us while they would grow. All the counterinsurgency courses and all the military maneuvers would not suffice to even intimidate them. They are greater in number and know the terrain better. I am in favor of an alliance, or at least of a nonaggression agreement for peaceful coexistence. I believe the latter has shown results. The garrison has its timetable. In the region, for example, there are hours for men and women to foolishly stroll at that place, and there are hours for the ants to look for food or just to stroll on the rocks because outside it is hot or it is raining. Anyhow, that in these few days we have been happy [sentence as published]. I acknowledge that when dealing with elephants, the problems gets out of hand. However, I believe we will end up reaching an agreement. Yes, yes, I know that the health workers, furious, are ready to write letters on the number of germs ants carry, not to mention those of the elephants. But I think I make myself understood. Revolutions are also unhygienic...for neoliberalism. Particularly because they are catching (like the elephants and the ants). Just as one learns to love ants and elephants, one must learn to love and stage revolutions.

Going back to the relationship between ants and elephants, I am not convinced by the apparent indifference that they assume when one passes the other. I suspect there is a secret alliance in that mutual ignoring. Maybe they help each other without knowing it. Maybe millions of ants hide behind the big ears, regrouping, conspiring, and preparing for a counterattack when a hygienic campaign forces them to a tactical withdrawal. Maybe the ants build large galleries underground to safeguard the elephants when the children end up forgetting them and they wind up in the evil hands of the circus owners. Where could they go if not underground to hide? Where could they recover their forces without strong hunters armed with napalm finding them? Who says the contrary, maybe...

For example, when I see an elephant on the outside of a circus or a zoo, he is immediately drawn to me. I know he is looking at me with secret complicity, making me understand that he is preparing to rebel. I am certain it is neither the cage nor the chains that hold him. He will break them one day and will at last happily romp in the gardens and eat all the cotton candy he wants (any self-respecting elephant goes crazy eating cotton candy and likes to romp in the gardens, even more so if there is a fountain).

For this reason and others, one must stage a revolution...

PRI's Zedillo Reveals Security Proposals

PA1807222494 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 15 Jul 94 p 9

[Text] The PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] presidential candidate has said he is distressed by the lack of safety for the people, saying the violations, murders, and kidnappings are inadmissible. More serious are the "illegal acts carried out by those responsible for ensuring an observance of the law." We must acknowledge "the growing apprehension toward the institutions, programs, and individuals responsible for public safety."

Parallel to the increase in violence "is the evident increase in criminal activity, which is more organized with each occurrence: weapons trafficking, bank robberies, drug trafficking, and kidnappings. The resources these new criminal organizations are utilizing are much

more dangerous than the ones everyday criminals use. They have even directly attacked the state of law on several occasions."

A breakdown of the 10 proposals follows:

1. A professionalization, dignifying of, and moralization of the security institutions. Zedillo spoke about revaluating and dignifying the individuals involved in this area, creating a National Public Security Academy, making the state and federal police training programs more homologous, implementing a more rigorous personnel selection, and favoring the creation a National Police Service Registrar.

2. An improvement of the security of public security groups. There is also a need for radical changes in order to combat corruption "with the full extent of the law and crack down on acts overstepping established authority." Concerning Mexico City, Zedillo has announced he plans to strengthen the People's Attention Unit with direct access to the department chief of the Federal District and to create similar instances in the various states. He also vowed to endorse an emergency telephone system, an 0 8 number, on a national level.

3. An effective coordination of the police. There are nearly 2,000 police departments, and there is an unmistakable need for "minimum, clear, and consistent levels of training programs that are proficient and methodological." A National Safety and Justice Procurement Program will be created at the Government Secretariat (SG) level aimed at "harmonizing and coordinating analogous programs with the state governments."

4. A crime prevention campaign. The state, Zedillo has said, is the organization responsible for pursuing crime, but the people can also cooperate. He proposed a prevention of "abuses to the individual's freedom" due to minor crimes and penalties for more serious crimes.

5. A firm, permanent struggle against drug trafficking and kidnappings. "Let us clearly state: As a result of drug trafficking, Mexico is going through the consequences caused by drug harvests, addiction, violence, and the consumption that takes place beyond our borders. Consumption is the lifeline of drug trafficking, the reason why consumer countries must assume their responsibility and directly attack this problem."

Internally, "we will spare no resources or energies in order to eliminate drug trafficking. I am aware this is society's objective, and, therefore, I am proposing a utilization of the state's power to eliminate drug trafficking in our territory." The path to drugs in its various forms will be closed "by the appropriate coordination between institutions and nations, with a full respect of our sovereignty."

He has acknowledged corruption exists, and he promised a determination "in the struggle against its tolerance, deception, negligence, information leaks, warnings of operations, thefts of information or alterations, or any other type of complicity concerning this issue." He has also announced the consolidation of the National Counternarcotics Institute and a legal framework allowing an interaction among the three branches of government.

Concerning kidnappings, Zedillo has offered to create an "efficient, highly professional" Antikidnapping Reaction Unit, and he promised to head the struggle, which "society and the government will win."

6. Modernize the Prosecutor General's Office. Zedillo said crimes should not remain unpunished because of negligent or corrupt agents. He proposed the promotion of reforms to establish "effective mechanisms that will challenge those decisions blocking legal actions and to increase specific resources. [no closing quotation marks as published]

7. Overall reform of the justice system. There will be fiscal support for federal institutions with the goal of improving their respective justice systems; the separation of jurisdictional and administrative responsibilities currently handled by the Supreme Court of Justice will be evaluated; civil cases and courts of arbitration will be strengthened; and, in general, the quality of the justice system will be improved.

Zedillo committed himself to ensure that public employees "carry out court decisions swiftly. Meanwhile, they run the risk of having judicial authorities exercise the powers I plan to endow them with to the full extent of the law."

8. The independence of judges and the quality of justice. In good measure, he reflected, "the justice system's strength depends on each minister, magistrate, and each judge functioning with absolute autonomy and exclusively applying the law." Reforms will include appointments and promotions and will take care to prevent corruption, because poor conduct by court members tarnishes the image of the entire court system.

9. Guarantee access to justice. Information and dissemination systems will be created to explain the content of laws, offices and organizations involved will be encouraged to provide free advice, and more courts will be established and made more accessible. In addition, we will guarantee that Indian communities "will be able to depend on jurisdictional institutions to offer effective legal advice and translation services."

10. Effective mechanisms to regulate official decisions. The legal framework will be revaluated in such a way as to penalize illegal conduct by any public official and to perfect the mechanism in order to establish accountability. In such cases, there is need for more efficient supervisory systems within public administration to guarantee that public complaints are addressed.

Zedillo also proposed reviewing amparo legislation to make it more acccesible. He also proposed assessing the ease by which "the Supreme Court can declare a law or any other general regulation unconstitutional."

In addition to the aforementioned points, Zedillo insisted on upholding human rights, as well as supporting the National Human Rights Committee (CNDH). After these statements, Zedillo went to a radio interview in which he described his recommendations as historical. He also stated that this proposal will require the effort of society as well as the government.

Six Members of Tijuana Cartel Captured

PA1807201694 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1740 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Text] Culiacan, Mexico, 15 Jul (EFE)--The Culiacan Judiciary Police have captured at least six alleged members of the Tijuana Cartel, the most wanted group of Mexican drug traffickers, a source of the Sinaloa Attorney General's Office [PGR] has told EFE. The capture took place in a fishing area approximately 16 km from Culiacan, the capital of Sinaloa State, in the country's northern area, where the alleged drug traffickers had gathered.

The source has said the arrested men are Ruben Rubio Angulo; Brigido Elizalde, Eliseo Roman Camacho; Jesus Cardenas; Martin Manuel Gutierrez; and Gerardo Ochoa, all of whom apparently are subordinates of the Tijuana Cartel leaders, brothers Francisco, Ramon, Javier, and Benjamin Arellano Felix.

During the operation, the police seized 12 AK-47 rifles, with approximately 900 rounds, and the traffickers' armored vehicle.

According to the PGR, the six men were led by Ismael Highera, a.k.a. El Mayel, lieutenant of the Arellano Felix brothers, who are regarded as Mexico's most dangerous and most wanted drug traffickers due to the untold number of violent actions in which they have participated.

The most prominent action in which the drug traffickers participated was an attack the Arellano Felix brothers ordered to eliminate their enemy, Joaquin Guzman, a.k.a. El Chapo, leader of the Sinaloa Cartel, at the Guadalajara Airport on 24 May 1993. Cardinal Juan Jesus Posadas Ocampo and six others died in the shooting, but the drug traffickers of the two groups were unhurt.

The two cartels are fighting for control of the drug trafficking routes in northern Mexico and to southern United States.

Senators Approve Amendments to Criminal Laws

PA1807172694 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 15 Jul 94

[From the "24 Hours" newscast]

[Text] To wage a head-on battle against the problem drug trafficking represents for the country, Mexican senators have unanimously approved amendments to the criminal and criminal procedures laws as well as amendments to the laws on weapons and explosives. These overall amendments are aimed at increasing jail sentences and fines for anyone caught carrying a weapon, stashing Army-owned weapons, using a minor to commit a crime, forging money, stealing, and dealing with contraband. All these crimes will be described as serious as of now. Anyone caught and charged with one of these crimes will ineligible for bail.

Roundup of Economic Developments

PA1807172794

[Editorial report] The following is a compilation of reports on economic developments monitored through 18 July.

The World Bank announced today the granting of an $85-million loan to Mexico for financing small-scale irrigation projects and upgrading agricultural technology. The loan is for a 15-year term, with a five-year grace period, at a variable rate of 7.25 percent tied to the institution's lending costs. (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2053 GMT 13 July 94)

The minimum wage dropped by 47.5 percent during the past 11 years in Mexico, where approximately 10 million people (12.5 percent of the total population) are unemployed or underemployed, according to a study revealed today by the Labor Congress of the Confederation of Mexican Workers, CTM. The report added per capita income dropped internationally from eighth to 10th place, below such countries as Panama and Barbados. (Paris AFP in Spanish 1653 GMT 14 July 94)

Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari has reported 63.45 billion pesos produced by the sale of parastate enterprises during the first half of 1994 helped the country reduce its domestic debt to only 10 percent of the GNP, an unprecedented figure. (Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 14 July 94 p 40)

The federal government has earmarked 2.7 billion pesos for social projects in the state of Chiapas for 1994, said Hector Hernandez Llamas, an official with the team tasked with overseeing compliance with the Chiapas peace agreements. (Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 14 July 94)

The Mexican Finance and Public Credit Secretariat today announced that the May trade balance has resulted in a $1.513 billion deficit. During the month, Mexico exported goods valued at $5.079 billion and imported nearly $6.592 billion worth of goods. The secretariat noted that nonpetroleum products accounted for 87 percent of Mexico's exports. In terms of Mexico's imports, the Finance Secretariat reported that $2.692 billion corresponded to raw materials to be used to

manufacture goods for export; $2.019 billion to intermediate goods; $1,098 billion to capital goods; and $783 million to consumer goods. (Paris AFP in Spanish 1656 GMT 16 Jul 94)

Mexican fishing authorities described the U.S. decision to continue the tuna embargo as groundless, especially in light of the measures adopted by Mexico to protect dolphins. Jose Moreno Soda, coordinator for the Fishing Secretariat, yesterday said the tuna embargo is unjustified, because Mexico has honored its obligations in preventing accidental dolphin deaths during tuna catching operations. Last year, Mexico's tuna fleet recorded 0.6 accidental deaths per haul, while in 1986 the level was 15 accidential deaths per haul. According to Moreno Soda, "There is no reason for the tuna embargo to continue, because all observers on tuna ships have determined that accidental dophin deaths have declined." (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0830 GMT 16 Jul 94)

It was reported today in Mexico City that the overall inflation rate over the past 12 months registered 6.85 percent. It was also reported that inflation has now been kept to single digits for 13 months in a row. According to a report issued by the subpanel responsible for tracking prices under the Stability, Competitiveness, and Employment Pact (PECE), the slowdown in the nation's growth rate was reflected in the family basket price. The average family basket price rose 7.38 percent over the past 12 months. The panel report also explained that the price index for goods not included in the basic staples basket rose 6.7 percent, while the producer price index rose 6.27 percent during the same period. (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2315 GMT 14 Jul 94)

El Salvador

President: Armed Forces Could Join Haitian Peacekeeping Force

PA1807234094 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 18 Jul 94 p 17

[Text] Santa Ana.—"Our Armed Forces and National Civilian Police [PNC] could participate in a peacekeeping mission," the president said at the inauguration of the "10th Senora Santa Ana Cattle Fair" at noon last Saturday.

Calderon Sol explained that the decision to send military personnel, police officers, and even members of the reserves to the Caribbean country would depend on the decision made by the international community in the coming days.

The Salvadoran Government has said it will not back a military invasion of Haiti but will send a peacekeeping force after the departure of the Haitian officers who are currently in power.

The president said, however, that the possibility that PNC personnel will be sent to Haiti is small because El Salvador would then be left unprotected without anyone to counter the growing crime wave in the country.

He Cannot Intervene in CSJ [Supreme Court of Justice] Elections

On another issue, the president insisted that the executive branch cannot intervene in the election of the new CSJ because this action is under the exclusive authority of the Legislative Assembly.

The president said the death threats received by several deputies who are on the subcommittee negotiating the consolidation of the top judicial organization come from people who still do not understand the democratic system.

ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] deputies, including Walter Araujo, have received threatening anonymous telephones calls. After receiving similar threats, PCN [National Conciliation Party] Deputy Dagoberto Marroquin resigned from the subcommittee and left the country with his family last week.

Although there is an agreement for the appointment of more than 80 percent of the magistrates, the impasse continues regarding the CSJ president. The National Judiciary Council and the Federation of Salvadoran Lawyers Associations [Federacion de Asociaciones de Abogados de El Salvador] submitted new lists of candidates this week, which could solve the problem.

The threats and strikes are attempts to destabilize the country, and all Salvadorans should reject those attitudes, Calderon Sol added after stating that the legislators have to reach an agreement and appoint the magistrates.

Calderon Sol emphasized that public security is vital for the normal development of productive activities, and for that reason he will continue to aggressively fight crime, especially in Santa Ana, one of the cities that suffers most from the scourge of crime.

Measures Against Government Strike Announced

PA1807201794 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Report by Balmore Parada; from the "YSU Radio News" newscast]

[Text] The government of President Armando Calderon Sol announced a few minutes ago several measures against striking government workers. Communications Minister Francisco Flores said the Public Force will be used against labor strikers: [Begin Flores recording] Our government is not accountable to pressure groups or political elites of any kind. For this reason, we hereby report the Presidency has given specific instructions to the cabinet regarding strikes in the public sector.
1. The government will order the intervention by the security forces whenever working sites are closed down.
2. The salary of any public worker who fails to show up for work will be withheld for the corresponding length of time the worker is absent from work.
3. Any person involved in public actions and disturbances will be sued.
4. The government acknowledges the need to improve the labor situation of public workers; for this reason, the government has increased salaries by 10 percent and suggested the National Minimum Salary Council raise private sector salaries by 10 percent.
5. The government will revise public workers' salaries early next year.
6. The ministers and presidents of autonomous institutions will listen to and settle the workers' legitimate and reasonable demands. [end recording]

According to the official, the government's decree is aimed at protecting public employees. He also said the constant labor unrest in the country does not represent a genuine demand for improvement but is, rather, a form of political agitation.

Guatemala

Foreign Minister Does Not Support Action Against Haiti

PA1907014994 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 18 Jul 94 p 24

[Text] Foreign Minister Maritza Ruiz de Vielman said initially [en primer instancia] Guatemala would not support any type of action against Haiti, because our position would be one of coordinating a consensus with the rest of the Central American countries. We would not implement bilateral decisions in this regard but, instead,

would follow the guidelines of the OAS, because we do not believe in taking hasty actions, she stressed.

Ministry Discusses Security With Diplomatic Corps

PA1907015794 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 18 Jul 94 p 2

[Text] After three Mexican diplomats and a Guatemalan pilot were attacked by gunmen last week, the Foreign Ministry called the accredited diplomatic corps to an emergency meeting to hear their views about violence in the country.

After being informed about the conditions of the three wounded Mexican diplomats—Rebeca Ruizseco, Juan Manuel Bendfeld, and Miguel Angel de Leon—and Guatemalan pilot Otto Rene Cornejo, Foreign Minister Maritza Ruiz de Vielman decided to call the diplomatic corps to an emergency meeting. Reportedly, a similar meeting will be held this week to receive suggestions from diplomatic missions on security measures they believe are necessary.

It has been said that other diplomatic missions accredited to the government of President De Leon Carpio have also been the targets of violence within recent days, but they have hushed up the attacks in order not to prompt more concern among citizens.

Both the Foreign Ministry and the Guatemalan president reiterated to the Mexican Embassy their interest in conducting a successful investigation and finding the culprits to ensure that this crime is not left unpunished. Regarding the wounded diplomats, it was reported that none of them are in critical condition any longer.

De Leon News Conference on Draft Bill, Issues

PA1707172294 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1900 GMT 11 Jul 94

[News conference by President Ramiro de Leon Carpio with unidentified reporters on 11 July; place not given; from the "Telepress Newscast"—recorded]

[Text] [De Leon] I am aware of what has been said. I can clearly say I would immediately veto the amnesty draft bill if Congress passes it. The government's dignity and my respect for the Guatemalan people will not allow me to sign a bill that would authorize a political amnesty of that nature. I do not believe, however, the draft bill will be approved.

There are worthy deputies in Congress. There are deputies who have their principles and would not participate in that game; furthermore, they have already said this on a personal, individual, and faction level.

The president of the Republic would immediately veto the draft bill should it pass. I doubt they will obtain the necessary votes, the 79 votes, or two-thirds of the votes, to pass it. The people of Guatemala can rest assured the political and fiscal amnesties will not be approved.

[Reporter] Do you feel the deputies are resorting to blackmail by saying they will approve the negotiations with the Paris Club if the amnesty is approved?

[De Leon] We do not tolerate blackmail. The finance minister has been very clear on this issue, and I support her statements. We accept no type of negotiation; furthermore, the implementation of the special tax was necessary and was a priority in March.

The special tax is no longer a priority and is no longer included in the plan for budget reforms. Even if this were a priority, even if we were talking about another tax that was to be included in the package we are going to create and study, we would never yield to blackmail by Congress.

I believe this Congress has already fulfilled, quote, unquote, its historic task; it has nothing more to do, and the people of Guatemala know this. Should they attain a majority to pass a law that will not benefit the Guatemalan people, in this case the fiscal and political amnesty, it will be immediately vetoed. We are at an advantage here, because, according to the law, the veto must not be returned until August; therefore, the people can rest assured the law will not pass.

The government is very strong at this point, and it will have no problems vetoing this draft bill or any other law that contravenes the interests of the Guatemalan people.

[Reporter] Certain companies involved in tax evasion have said a type of fiscal terrorism has been implemented. Do you accept that statement?

[De Leon] If applying the law on those who commit a crime is terrorism, then you can call it that, but we are going to continue to enforce the law. We are going to enforce the law for the first time in Guatemala's history. No more privileges for the powerful and not so powerful. The law is for everyone. Anyone caught breaking the law or committing a crime will be punished. What we have implemented is part of the state's policy.

I have been in direct contact with the various ministries and institutions during these past few days. I will be meeting with the attorney general in a few minutes to coordinate the actions to be taken against those guilty of tax evasion and those who, in certain cases, have supposedly committed a crime.

The law is going to be enforced. As I said earlier, no more privileges. This government is a transition government, but we are working to create a situation much different than the one we found. We are going to be drastic. Law in hand, we are going to protect the interests of the Guatemalan people. The country, the state, needs money, and we are going to get that money law in hand.

It is not true we are implementing fiscal terrorism. The word may sound fine, but it is not true. We are going to enforce the law. If there are certain people who believe we are implementing fiscal terrorism, then they can say what they please. We are going to work with the law in hand.

As a matter of fact and because we are on the subject of money, I have before me a government agreement I signed today in which we have clearly stated the 45-million the judicial branch is requesting will not be disbursed. I would also like to tell you Congress approved the disbursement of 100 million quetzals in 1992, in order to strengthen the judicial system, to create new courts throughout the country, to purchase equipment, to create a planning unit, and to purchase material for the judicial branch, with the exclusive purpose of improving the judicial branch. It was later learned, however, there was no money to cover those expenses.

A source to cover a disbursement must be established, according to the Constitution, if a disbursement is approved. Thus, that money was never given to the judicial branch. The fact the money was never disbursed does not mean it must be included in the year's budget.

The government can approve disbursements throughout the year only if the funds are available. The government cannot approve disbursements if there is no money available. Agreement 44-94 was included in the budget later. This agreement approved the disbursement of 45 million of the initial 100 million, to the judicial branch. It was clearly stated, however, these funds would be disbursed if we had the money. This is not the case, because, as everyone knows, the government is facing serious problems of liquidity as a result of low tax yields.

I want you to be very clear about something else. When the disbursement of the 100 million quetzals was being discussed, at no time—and I want to underscore at no time—was it said these funds would be used to cover wage increases, salaries, or similar expenses. For this reason, it is not true these funds would be used to increase wages.

In conclusion, and on the same subject, in light of the serious financial crisis we are experiencing, the government cannot disburse funds for expenses not considered priorities. The president and secretary of the Supreme Court are threatening to sue the president of the Republic if these funds are not disbursed. These funds will not be disbursed despite these threats. I am waiting for them to sue me. I am waiting.

I would also like to tell you there are certain priority expenses being considered, and I will be submitting these expenses for approval by the Guatemalan people. I signed an agreement today in which it is stated those funds will be used to purchase food, medicine, medical and surgical equipment and to cancel certain debts I found pending when I took office. These debts are primarily in the health sector. I reiterated we are unable to provide these funds to the judicial branch for this reason. We cannot make this provision today, and I doubt we will be able to do it this year; perhaps we will be able to do it once the new Supreme Court is sworn in, but that may be sometime next year and will depend on the money the government has. It is not possible at this time.

I would like to add part of the money for which the judicial branch has asked is being accredited to the floating debt the Public Health and Social Welfare Ministry and other government institutions have. I believe the people of Guatemala support me when I say those 45 million should be given to the public health sector and not the judicial branch.

[Reporter] It is being said, however, [words indistinct] economic cabinet [words indistinct] proposal?

[De Leon] I have a meeting with the economic cabinet at 1500.

[Reporter] How much will you [words indistinct]?

[De Leon] I do not know. I first have to hear what the economic cabinet has to say. I will study their proposal. I would prefer not to discuss the matter for the time being. No decision has been made.

[Reporter] A problem affecting us all is [words indistinct] fuel and electricity. The minister has said rationing may be ordered. Certain sectors have said rationing would contribute to an increase [words indistinct].

[De Leon] I arrived in the country only a couple of hours ago. I am going to meet with the economic cabinet today to discuss these issues.

[Reporter] Going back to [words indistinct] that country?

[De Leon] Yes. It is included in the joint declaration we have signed. As president of the Republic of Guatemala, I stressed the importance the Republic of China [as heard] has within the international community; this point is nothing new. We have stressed this in the past, and our Foreign Ministry stressed it at that international forum [not further specified] only last year. I also emphasized the Republic of China's just aspirations of becoming a UN member. It is a right the 21 million inhabitants of that country have. I have also reiterated the decisive willingness of my administration to support the efforts made by the Republic of China. We are working on a cultural, political, social, and economic bloc with Central America, and our foreign minister is meeting at this very moment with the Central American foreign ministers in Taiwan, where they are broaching this and other issues.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[De Leon] I have a meeting with Prosecutor General Ramses Cuesta today at noon and will inform him of the results of our investigation. It seems in Guatemala—and this reminds me of [10-second break in reception]. I do not believe it is best that the district attorney air these matters through the press; this is an issue about which I am going to talk to him. Respecting his autonomy, we will provide him with the information we have. We will disclose the results when we consider it appropriate.

We are facing a situation right now that is difficult to comprehend, but these things did happen, and I did not invent them. Several things have happened, and the General Staff of the Presidency, which is responsible for the president's safety, and the president will hold a news conference at the appropriate moment to explain certain details of this regrettable incident.

Honduras

Congress President Denies Forces To Be Sent to Haiti

PA1907010394 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2215 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Tegucigalpa, 18 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—The Honduran National Congress today denied that this Central American nation is going to form part of a possible U.S.-led military force to invade Haiti and remove the regime of General Raoul Cedras.

It was reported from Washington that Latin America would provide approximately 4,000 soldiers from Argentina, Chile, El Salvador, Panama, and Honduras to "normalize the situation" in Haiti following any military action against Cedras' de facto government.

Honduran Congress President Carlos Flores said he "is surprised" that this Central Amerian country is being included in a military contingent, because "any decision must come from the legislative branch." According to Flores, Congress authorizes the departure of troops "to provide services abroad in accordance with international agreements and treaties," but the Congress president explained that the Congress has not approved anything in this regard.

Flores said he regretted the situation in Haiti and added that he would prefer that a resolution to the crisis be found through the OAS or the United Nations. According to the Congress president, it is more important to resolve domestic problems than to intervene in the affairs of other nations. [passage omitted]

Committee President Denies Proposal of Coup Attempt

PA1807203294 Tegucigalpa EL PERIODICO DE HONDURAS in Spanish 16 Jul 94 p 40

[Text] Tegucigalpa—Oswaldo Ramos Soto, president of the National Party Central Committee, has denied several political and economic personalities have proposed to him the staging of a coup against President Carlos Roberto Reina.

Ramos Soto has said the Central Committee met with members of the Honduran Council for Private Enterprise on 14 July to talk about the convergence which the president has invited the country's active forces to join. Ramos has denied it was proposed to him during the meeting to create a movement to disrupt Honduras' constitutional order or destabilize juridical order, democracy, and the freedom the Honduran people have been enjoying. Nevertheless, he has admitted the presence of serious problems, which he described as the most serious in the country's history.

He has said conflicts will not be resolved through an "action of political pathology" but, rather, by reinforcing the democratic government elected by the people. In addition, he has described the report carried by a Tegucigalpa newspaper as a fallacy and a serious mistake. Should a situation as the one reported occur, such a de facto government would stand no chance, he added.

If this liberal government, which assumed office as the result of a strong mandate from the people, cannot overcome the crisis, the one that would replace it will not get the international community's support, Ramos Soto has said.

He has admitted, however, that people "talk about things" when they gather in small groups but that this talk cannot justify returning to situations that must remain part of the country's dark chapter.

Reina Asks Indians To Refile Land Ownership Suits

PA1507184794 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 14 Jul 94 p 6

[Text] Tegucigalpa—President Carlos Roberto Reina yesterday urged ethnic groups to refile their lawsuits on the legitimacy of land ownership through their legal representatives, accompanied by proof that corroborates their rights. The president made that remark during a program on Radio America in which different segments of society had the opportunity to ask him questions. One of the callers was Israel Centeno, from the black Carib community, who accused General Hector Castro Cagbus, a former Air Force commander, of usurping the lands of his fellow Colon residents, who are in danger of being murdered.

On this matter, the president noted the rights of specific ethnic groups were violated with regard to land ownership. This problem does not just involve members of the black Carib community but U.S. citizens too.

"Where do these problems come from?" the president asked. From acts of corruption by the country's (municipal) land registration officials who registered deeds that later had not validity. The registries were possibly made based on acts of corruption," he noted. [no opening quotation mark as published]

The views of these people, he said, are correct but have to be defined by the Judicial Branch through their legal representatives, with arguments and proof that corroborate that the law is on their side. If they do not seek the legal recourse, it is highly unlikely that the problems will be resolved.

"I believe those suits have to be resubmitted through their legal representatives accompanied by specific evidence that corroborates their rights," he added.

According to Reina, Indians grow desperate over the neglect they have suffered for so many years; he confirmed their demands are just. That is why the march they began must yield positive results.

Commenting on the disturbances in La Lima between police and members of the Trade Union of Tela Railroad Company Workers (SITRATERCO) that left one person dead and 16 wounded, he reiterated that a problem between the two sides (management and workers of the transnational company) does not harm the whole nation and that allowing the takeover of bridges and highways would be a "very serious error."

"This is a matter of being a little honest in one's assessment. It has Nothing to do with an internal national problem. That problem has to be resolved through normal means," he stated.

Mario Quintanilla, president of the Federation of Honduran Trade Unions (FESITRANH), told the president he was concerned about the former's remarks that these are "undemocratic" groups, because banana workers are also soldiers of "Morazan." He said such remarks hurt their dignity. In response, Reina said prudence must prevail, and union leaders must ask their rank and file members to think about this. "To say there are no undemocratic groups in Honduras is to ignore reality completely. It is these groups that have plundered this country many times, these groups that have committed offenses against him. Talking about undemocratic groups is correct, no matter who feels that he is being so labelled or no matter who is offended by that comment," he said.

He disagreed with Hector Hernadez, president of the United Federation of Honduran Workers (CUTH), who said force had been employed to crush a labor dispute. In Reina's opinon, his intention was not to crush workers or resolve a labor dispute through the use of force but to guarantee the rights of citizens.

Reina Remarks on Labor, Other Issues

PA1507142394 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1730 GMT 12 Jul 94

[News conference by President Roberto Reina with unidentified reporters at the Foreign Ministry in Tegucigalpa; broadcast in progress—live]

[Text] [Reina] ....of the media, dear journalists.

Today, 12 July, is a historic date. The democratic government of Dr. (?Villeda Morales) faced one of its most serious attacks on 12 July 1959. This attack makes us recall what has been the course of our history: a constant battle between democratic and undemocratic forces, the forces of human development and those of stagnation, the forces of progress and those of [word indistinct]. With this statement said, as a way of paying homage to the victims on that 12 July, I want to speak to you openly.

I must clarify certain aspects. I have never asked for a closed television circuit to keep away from you, and I will not do it. I am a man who has fought with the people, and that gives me the moral authority to tell you there has been a misinterpretation regarding a high tech device at the government house. This circumstance has caused great unrest and a number of criticisms that are entirely unfair. I will continue a direct dialogue with you. I reiterate to you for the last time: I have nothing to hide. I want you to again be aware of the national unity we are proposing, and if you state any better options, I will be pleased to consider them.

Two other incidents are also occurring today, one of them in La Lima. What are the goals of these incidents? I believe this is what the media must focus on, because Hondurans otherwise will not be aware of the situation, and misinformed people will never be free.

I will give you a brief account of the situation. The problem in La Lima revolves around skirmishes between a union and a company. The Labor Ministry, on behalf of the government, the third party, has participated in the negotiations. The matter was entirely resolved. A document was signed, and all parties were pleased. Once that positive action, which favored all involved individuals, reached other sectors, the situation was completely twisted. Headlines such as Reina Offers 500 Lempiras To Bribe Workers not only constitute an example of this type of twist but are slanderous. I have never bribed anyone. What is behind these malicious interpretations? I would like to talk to every one of you in this regard.

A measure that was constructive, that benefited the parties and in which the government intervened in keeping with its duties, was distorted and turned back. How far was it turned back? As far as to demand a wage increase, a topic with which I fully agree not due to pressures but because we have embraced it as part of the national unity we have proposed.

There has been much confusion. What was today's incident all about? It was about a difference between certain union leaders and the rank and file. You may reach your own conclusions. This difference led to incidents. Why? Because the president of the Republic issued an order. The Honduran people's right to circulate on highways and bridges is a basic human right. No one can prevent them from exercising this right. Why? Because it is a constitutional right, a basis of the Honduran Constitution.

An issue between a boss and a worker will become a national problem, because they are occupying highways and bridges. We cannot allow this to happen. No one will benefit, absolutely no one. This is one of the points.

Another point is an Indian march headed for Tegucigalpa. I have struggled for these people for the past 50 years and will continue to do so. I will give them everything they want. This is a right they won a long time ago. Other people have exploited and humiliated them, keeping them in absolute destitution by plundering the country's legitimate assets.

I do not need to be pressured into doing these things. Had an Indian delegation come here, I would have greeted it with the same dignity I receive the highest ambassador of any country, because I have the greatest respect for people. No matter how humble they may be, I respect them as human beings.

Why has this march toward the capital coincided with the attempt to strike, the occupation of bridges, and a number of activities that are unrelated? Ask yourself why this march is taking place today and not one or two years ago.

[Reporter] Why?

[Reina] Because they want it to occur the same time as these other actions I mentioned.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] that you could reveal their names.

[Reina] I cannot give names. Names are revealed nowhere. Go ask the president of Venezuela, the ones who have placed Venezuela at the brink of total anarchy.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Reina] They are interested sectors. Why do you not know who they are? You want me to name them so you can run a headline tomorrow stating: Reina Accuses Tom, Dick, and Harry.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Reina] All antidemocratic sectors of Honduras.

[Reporter] Is it justified for the Army to take to the streets to repress protests?

[Reina] That is a false assessment. The Army is here to defend the rights of all Hondurans. It is the opposite of what is being said.

[Reporter] But those who are there are also Hondurans.

[Reina] But who? The four who want to be leaders of Sitraterco [Trade Union of Tela Railroad Company Workers] or 5 million Hondurans? It is a matter of choice.

[Reporter] How about the five who were injured this morning?

[Reina] They are the product of foolishness, of those who believe they are entitled to take justice into their owns hands, who are encouraged by people who agree with them to create chaos in this country.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Reina] What other option if the order was already issued? There will be no occupation of bridges and highways.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Reina] I am willing to individually meet with anyone, even you, to let you tell me your opinion [12-second break in reception] millions of Hondurans circulating on highways and bridges.

[Reporter] Has anybody thought that people might be killed or wounded [words indistinct]?

[Reina] It is not only there where people could be killed or injured. People are killed and injured every day.

[Reporter] Don't you think it is dangerous to give the Army free reign, Dr. Reina?

[Reina] It is not dangerous to tell it to fulfill its constitutional duties.

[Reporter] Mr. President...

[Reina, interrupting] That is why I am telling you there are completely different viewpoints. Who does the blood stain? Those of us who are defending the fatherland; those of us who are its legitimate representatives; those of us who are struggling to make the country advance and overcome this crisis; or those who are disputing a leadership position in the midst of immense uncertainty? Is this going to lead to the occupation of bridges and widespread anarchy? That cannot be. A country that does not enforce the law is in anarchy. Then the president is criticized for not making decisions. How often have you said the president does not make decisions? When I make decisions within the framework of the Constitution, this is even clearer. Take the installation of the closed circuit television system, for example. Critics say Reina is afraid of reporters, that he is becoming more isolated.

[Reporter] There is a communication gap.

[Reina] I think so. You have always been very wise. There is a communication gap. Let us communicate with each other more. Let us discuss these things.

[Reporter] Mr. President...

[Reina, interrupting] I raise my voice to stress historic matters.

[Reporter] Mr. President, in the case of Sitraterco...

[Reina, interrupting] Work this out among yourselves.

[Reporter] In the case of Sitraterco...

[Unidentified station announcer, interrupting] The Sitraterco case has created confusion during the presidential news conference. Here are some more questions.

Fellow journalists are being asked to behave and pose the appropriate questions in an orderly fashion.

[Reina] The government resolved the Sitraterco case. As far as the government is concerned, the Sitraterco case is no longer an issue. We conducted excellent negotiations and reached an excellent solution. When the solution went to the full leadership, they turned it down. It seems to me they did it for political reasons.

That organization will hold an election next month. Is that any reason to bring the country to a standstill? Is that the cause for which blood was shed? Is it the cause for which the president made use of his popular and constitutional mandate? This is a matter of interpreting it in good faith or with one's heart [four-second break in reception]

[Reporter] I would like to comment on the 500 lempiras you mentioned. The problem is that a union leader made the charge in San Pedro Sula. We do not know if he did it to hurt you or your government. The fact remains that all news media reported this charge. That is one thing. Another thing [three-second break in reception]

[Reina] That was the report that circulated. It was totally removed from the truth.

[Reporter] During the previous administration, Sitraterco went on two strikes. One was very long, lasting a whole month. They also took over highways. Politicians are again accused of being behind that strike. Don't you think this is strictly a union matter?

[Reina] I have told you the absolute truth about that situation, if you can believe the president of Honduras. The matter was settled in terms very beneficial for everyone. After it was settled, it turned out that actions by the union leaders were disallowed. There can be no solution that way. What good are negotiations at the highest level where every effort is made if it only lasts six months?

The discussion on the collective agreement begins in December. Those who were negotiating came out very pleased, but those in the union have no confidence in the negotiators. Is that the president's problem. With this referendum system, no negotiation will ever conclude. If we have another negotiation and then the agreement is put to a referendum and turned down, it will destroy the concept of negotiation.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Reina] I did not intervene and will not in this case. However, one can have the good offices of sensible Hondurans who may want to intervene. Yesterday I met with people from Fesitranh [Federation of Honduran Trade Unions] and explained to them that we were not against a wage revision because two things were converging: One is the Sitraterco strike, and the other is the wage revision, something I have proposed. We will implement it very soon.

[Reporter] I have two questions. First, the unionists with whom you met yesterday said that you promised to issue a general salaries decree. Is that true? When would this take place? Second, what will the government do in view of the transportation workers' threat to park their vehicles come Monday?

[Reina] [Words indistinct] we issued orders not to let that happen. I ordered a salary adjustment [words indistinct]. I am giving you the basic ideas. I have never tried to shy away from you. I want to appeal to your conscience as good Hondurans. If someone belongs to another party and says, look, this is what I think, I would listen to him. I have no problems like that. But why not speak the truth instead of creating difficult situations for Honduras?

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] this means that you will not allow a paralyzation of urban transportation?

[Reina] Again, there is confusion about this. I said no one has a right to interrupt traffic on highways and bridges. I issued orders to the [word indistinct] and the armed forces. This is in keeping with the Honduran constitutional system. This is a correct order. I am exercising a constitutional duty.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] I have two questions, but I want you to further explain [words indistinct] to clarify this issue once and for all. You said that you will grant the western Indians everything they want. Among other things, I think that they proposed the removal of your presidential designate, Juan de la Cruz Avelar, because they think he is pillaging the forests in that area. I want to know whether they indeed requested that and whether you are willing to comply.

[Reina] They have not asked me to do that. Facts are changed. What they requested and what [words indistinct] are different. They can request the closure of a sawmill. I think that is what they did. But how can I dismiss someone who was elected? He would have to resign. Facts are changed.

The news about the 500 lempiras, for example. That is what was said there, and as Armando Villanueva [not further identified] stated, journalists recorded it because they heard it there. I am not saying that the journalist made this charge. I am saying that this news is absolutely false. And who is behind all this? Who wants to take advantage of the energy crisis to promote strikes and involve the Indians? Who? You find out.

[Reporter] [Word indistinct]

[Reina] The Haitian situation is truly dramatic, horribly dramatic. It is a country without resources. A country-....[pauses] When the term Haitization of a problem is used, it is to imply something like trying to feed 7 million people without any resources. Democracy disappeared in Haiti. Its human resources are difficult. The people practice voodoo and are afflicted by a very high illiteracy

rate. They have a tradition of violence and other horrible things. The elected president was removed amid those conditions.

The United States and democracies of the American continent want to restore democracy in Haiti. To expel UN officials and break away from the United Nations is tantamount to breaking away from the world. This calls for a democratic solution as soon as possible for the sake of the Haitian people, because all our countries must become democracies by the end of the century. I think that is imminent. These are desperate actions. It is like saying: I will break away from the world and live in a separate universe. That is not the right thing to do. I think the days of the coupists who mounted the assault are numbered.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Reina] I do not support any invasion of any nation. This is the responsibility of the Haitian people. I would support the restoration of democracy once the United Nations asked the countries of the world and once the problem is solved. That problem has tremendous repercussions that begin with the refugees. What is a refugee? A person who flees a country because his life is in peril. Do we or do we not receive a person who reaches a coast clinging to a raft? Do we ask him for a passport or visa? That is what the Haitian problem is to us, all the American countries.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] will the government delimit [words indistinct]?

[Reina] We are going to work for the demarcation. I have always supported those causes. Those people have been exploited and treated ruthlessly. I support helping them.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Reina] I already gave the order that it be (?stopped). I gave the orders days ago. We are also going [four-second break in reception]

[Reporter] ...the Indians from Yoro and Intibuca Departments and nearby areas, it has been the exploitation of forests. This continues at an accelerated pace, and it seems the ban you ordered has not been observed. What will be done, Mr. President? And second, how has the energy crisis been handled, and what solutions will be provided?

[Reporter, interrupting] I want to take advantage of this medium so HRN is not the only one that makes use of it. Will you allow an increase in mass transit fares? Some say it will be 1.75 lempira.

[Reina] First, I want to give my condolences to my dear friend Medrano for the death of his father. He was a great fighter. During a period of my life we struggled together, and my affection goes to him in heaven. I extend my sentiments of affection to you in his memory. As for the exploitation of forests, you heard my speech where I said the ban would be regulated. In Cohdefor [Honduran Corporation for Forest Development] we have one of the most important Hondurans, a person who has given Honduras the most prestige. He is serious, honest, and competent.

Have you not seen the trailers loaded with timber that were confiscated? This means the ban is being enforced. I think that is a good news. If the ban has not been fully enforced it is because there must be some problem. I have met with Rigoberto Sandoval, and he is continuing that measure precisely to prevent the further impoverishment of the people. I could not find a better Cohdefor director.

As for the increase in fares. Pardon me? [words indistinct] Well, we are all aware of the energy crisis. We have no lights here. Will there be a sane and decent Honduran who will blame this government for it? Will there? That started decades ago. This government is resolving that problem, and I hope to have resolved in a few months. It is a very big crisis. It is a national crisis. Instead of helping resolve it, some want to take advantage of it for other purposes. That is what I resent, and when the reporter said it irks me, it is because we have to say these things with conviction. If I speak softly to you, you do not believe me. I talk of these things with full awareness. When I see injustices, I become outraged. A good friend told me not to get angry on television. [laughter] It is easy to give that advice. When I think things are unjust, I emphasize them. I always try to be respectful, but the emphasis does not mean I am angry. It is the tone you use for something you truly believe in. When you are witnessing an injustice, your emphasis is greater. That is all, there is nothing more to it. I accept the caricatures making fun of me over the closed circuit television issue. A bad report produced unreal situations. It was said that I did not want to meet with you. I owe you another explanation.

The situation reached a crisis point the day of Colonel Alvaro Romero's birthday. I did not have the necessary information, and I knew it would be the first question to be asked. I did not want you to believe I was misinformed, but we still had not received the information on the negotiations that had just ended. I express my apologies. You can see me whenever you want, just as long as there is respect and consideration on both sides.

[Reporter] Will transportation fares be increased?

[Reina] Regarding transportation, I cannot tell you whether the fares will be increased. I believe it would be a big mistake to increase fares under the current situation.

[Station announcer] This is HRN [words indistinct] on increases in transportation fares. The president is asked another question.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] they have not wanted to give the names of the....

[Station announcer, interrupting] The names of those who are prompting conflicts and confrontation similar to

the one that occurred in San Pedro Sula this morning. The president is making a gesture of incredulity.

[Reina] Please tell me why you want me to give names.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] several cases of corruption, and there are no names so far.

[Reina] Oh, cases of corruption. I understand you now. Please forgive me. Those names will have to be revealed. I have said the moral revolution must end impunity, and I affirm this position. A moral revolution that chases ghosts is called a witch hunt. The criminals in this country have to be sent to jail soon, because the people will be disappointed if not. Give me time.

[Reporter] How much time?

[Reina] A reasonable amount.

[Station announcer] A colleague from a local radio station asks the president another question.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Station announcer, interrupting] The question refers to security now that the country is going through an energy crisis and there are electricity shutdowns during almost every night. What does the president think about this?

[Reina] [Words indistinct] We are at the time of the year when days are longer. This period will last until the next equinox, on approximately 22 or 23 July. We could take this issue to the respective office to see whether we can get the schedule changed without any problems. What was your other question?

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Station announcer, interrupting] [Words indistinct] Armed Forces to give citizens?

[Reina] Fujimori [words indistinct] would be surprised, because they say, and not only they, when you talk about defending prisoners' human rights you must first talk about the victims' human rights; this point is where confusion starts. Democracy has its set rules. Nobody can take it upon himself to give a Fujimori-type coup or a coup by the leftist sector. Democracy has precise rules: 1. free and clean elections with international observers. [Words indistinct]; 2. respect for human rights, which is fundamental; 3. clean hands in managing government funds; 4. a sustainable development program for society. There is no democracy if those rules are not followed. Such discussions are almost unending. As Armed Forces general commander, I gave an order to the commander in chief, a meritorious soldier, and he immediately obeyed with the greatest constitutional responsibility.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] Armed Forces commander has said there are no volunteers. [Words indistinct]

[Station announcer, interrupting] The Armed Forces commander is standing close to the president of the Republic.

[Reina] I have no differences with General Luis Discua. The situation is the following: We have established voluntary educational military service. I believe everyone applauded this move, starting with Discua himself. The problem is we need more troops in the Armed Forces. Congress has to establish the exact amount, but we do not have long lines of young people who want to enter this career. Thus, we have talked about improving the educational benefits so as to attract our young people. To confirm this point, I will hand the microphone to citizen and Armed Forces Commander Discua.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] official with whom they will be willing to cooperate, of course. Nobody is going to work if no incentives are given.

[Reina] For God's sake, lady.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] other incentives?

[Reina] [Words indistinct] soldiers who are seeking [13-second reception break] That is another thing.

[Discua] After the initiative on voluntary education service was presented to Congress, many people have been discharged after fulfilling their military service.

Volunteers have not come in large numbers, although we have schools, technical schools, ready. I repeat: It seems we Hondurans are not prone to attend classes. Every Honduran over 18 years of age has the opportunity to attend schools and technical schools, and we are waiting for them.

Many are going to believe the previous procedures will be used. I believe the officers have been briefed on the treatment new conscripts will receive. Logically, we are making soldiers, not other types of individuals; in other words, the harshness of discipline, the concept of subordination must be learned; therefore, there is physical training involved, training which Hondurans seem to dislike. That is why individuals tell more lies after leaving the institution disappointed [five-second break in reception] schools. We are trying to reach an accord with INFOP [National Institute of Professional Training]—I did it when I was commander of the 2d Infantry Battalion—to make military service more attractive. This is being done, but we are waiting for conscripts to sign up.

Many youths prefer to be on the streets rather than serve in the military, for which the remuneration is more moral than economic. When we have completed the battalions, we will logically come out on the streets to offer security to all individuals; this is being done along the northern coast. We are doing this at certain times, because the population has grown considerably.

One more thing, gentlemen, you are reporting an untrue incident. It was reported there was one dead person along the northern coast, in La Lima. This is absolutely untrue. Either Lieutenant Colonel Cabrera, commander of the 105th Brigade and regional chief of FUSEP [Public Security Force] in La Lima, is lying to me, or I

am lying to you, or you are lying to me by reporting there is one dead. What happened was that one person fainted. Logically, they came close to the police, wielding clubs and stones. They were ordered to disperse so as to avoid a confrontation. I reaffirm I will never allow a soldier to use a rifle against a citizen.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]?

[Reina] What I want you to report is that I have ordered a salary adjustment to bring calm. This is to be discussed at the bargaining table. [Words indistinct] of the salary adjustment.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] any specific topic?

[Reina] The Costa Rican foreign minister visited me this morning. We discussed the issue of the conference on peace and development and sustainable development for our country. I will travel to Costa Rica on 20 July to participate in a meeting President Figueres has convened with the presidents of Central America.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Reina] On 20 July.

[Reporter] Will talks be held with transportation workers to avert a possible strike?

[Reina] Of course.

[Reporter] Will the hike in transportation fares be implemented?

[Reina] That is subject to discussion.

[Reporter] Will you eliminate subsidies on public transportation?

[Reina] We do not know yet.

[Reporter] Is this possibility being analyzed?

[Reina] Yes it is.

Nicaragua

Assembly Fears Attacks Over Military Code

PA1807235594 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 15 Jul 94 p 10

[Report by Jorge Katin]

[Text] The Board of Directors of the National Assembly yesterday announced that "certain media are waging a campaign of threats" against deputies "because of the positions they have adopted during the current debate of the Military Code."

Deputies Santos Tijerino and Nile Salazar yesterday told the assembly that "they feel their lives are threatened because of a fierce campaign unleashed by Radio Corporacion." They said that every 10 minutes, Radio Corporacion airs a report with the names and addresses of the deputies who support the Military Code.

Tijerino and Salazar said the directors of Radio Corporacion and LA PRENSA will be responsible for anything that might happen to them.

In response to Tijerino and Salazar, Deputy Nicolas Bolanos said he also feels threatened, but because he opposes the Military Code.

A communique issued by the National Assembly Board of Directors said: "The deputies are included on a list as if they were criminals, and the public is being asked to take down their names, as is being done in the Radio Corporacion broadcasts. This creates a grave threat to the safety of the deputies and their families."

The legislative leadership urged the owners of the aforementioned radio station to stop this campaign. National Assembly President Luis Humberto Guzman described the campaign against the deputies as "deplorable."

Panama

Endara Maintains Stand on Not Accepting Haitians

PA1907000394 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Report by Fernando Fernandez from the "RPC Television News" newscast]

[Text] President Guillermo Endara today said in Panama that he has not changed his position on the Haitian refugee issue. Speaking at the Presidential Palace, President Endara said the new government of President-elect Ernesto Perez Balladares will have to convince the Panamanian people about the prospect of granting asylum to thousands of Haitians.

[Begin recording] [Endara] The U.S. authorities, through Mr. Garza [U.S. charge d'affaires], have kept me posted on the U.S. points of view on this issue, but I have already spoken. I have said no. The president-elect will have to convince the Panamanian people that this is something they should view as a moral obligation. I think it is a moral act to accept them, and, under the right circumstances, the Panamanian people would accept this. This must be explained in detail, but as long as the Panamanian people maintain their opposition, I will stand by them.

[Fernandez] Is there any pressure coming from the United States?

[Endara] No. Not since they left.

[Unidentified reporter] Who? U.S. envoy Linowitz?

[Endara] No. Sol Linowitz did not pressure me. [end recording]

Human Rights Committee Head Backs Cedras Asylum

PA1807161894 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 18 Jul 94 p 2

[Report by Yuriela Sagel]

[Text] Roberto Troncoso, president of the Panamanian Human Rights Committee, has said he supports the possible granting of political asylum to General Raoul Cedras, the Haitian military forces chief, a possibility which President Guillermo Endara and President-elect Ernesto Perez Balladares are studying.

Troncoso has said this measure would be acceptable if it prevents a military invasion of the Caribbean country, and he added he wished this option had been considered during the military regime of Manuel A. Noriega that Panama endured.

He has said Latin American countries must embrace the humanitarian spirit and welcome Haitians in their territories, especially if they are a signatory of the Geneva Convention on refugees.

Panamanians must consider the inhuman situation in Haiti, particularly the economic restrictions, and thus, the military regime that rules that Caribbean nation must end. This does not mean, however, any organization should approve an invasion, Troncoso added.

Perez Balladares' offer to give refuge to the military men could seek to prevent a collapse or invasion of Haiti, as well as regrettable deaths.

Commission Member: U.S. Request on Haitians 'Distorted'

PA1807144294 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 18 Jul 94 p 5A

[Report by Hermes Sucre Serrano]

[Text] Gilberto Ortega, a member of the Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD] commission helping President-Elect Ernesto Perez Balladares resolve the problem of the Haitian refugees, has said the U.S. request that Panama accept 10,000 Haitian refugees was distorted due to President Guillermo Endara's "unclear and unconvincing" position.

Ortega has said due to President Endara's "illogical" suggestion that the Haitians be kept on an island in the Pacific Ocean prompted President-Elect Ernesto Perez Balladares' leadership to make the Haitian problem a national issue.

The source added Perez Balladares' offer resulted from the manner in which the Endara government, certain media, and other parties interested in confusing the people interpreted the situation.

According to Ortega, it is obvious that the manner in which the Panamanian Government handled the Haitian problem caused people to get the wrong impression of Haitians as a people: that Haitians have AIDS, are illiterate, and are capable of killing for food; that the refugees would take over our jobs, practice witchcraft, and stay in Panama.

"The result of the verbal pressure resulting from the unclear and unconvincing position of President Endara's government has created a gap in the possible solution to the problem suggested by the U.S. Government," Ortega has said.

Ortega recalled that since the days of Omar Torrijos Herrera, the granting of asylum has been a tradition in Panama's policy of international solidarity with the peoples of the world.

"We must emphasize the positions of our president-elect and the Panamanian Bishop's Conference are the appropriate and noble positions for a people like the Panamanian people," Ortega concluded.

President-Elect To Discuss Hemispheric Summit With Clinton

PA1907013494 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2306 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] New York, 18 Jul (NOTIMEX)—On Tuesday [19 July], Panamanian President-elect Ernesto Perez Balladares will propose to the United States that money laundering, narcotics trafficking, and commerce be priority topics for discussion at the hemispheric summit slated for December.

"There are some topics that are very important for us, and we feel they should be discussed at the summit. I will speak about this and other issues on Tuesday with President William Clinton," Perez Balladares said in an interview with NOTIMEX.

Perez Balladares also discussed the problem of receiving Haitian refugees in his country, as well as the conditions his government would place on accepting the refugees on a temporary basis. He also touched on the issue of the foreign debt and his contacts with members of the U.S. private sector.

On Monday, the president-elect began in New York an official four-day visit to the United States, which, he said, "should mark a renewal of our image and our relations with the United States. [no closing quotation marks as received]

Commerce Minister on Proposal To Pay Mexican Oil Debt

PA1807025394 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 13 Jul 94 p E14

[Report by Juan Manuel Diaz C.]

[Text] The government has presented its latest proposal to the Mexican Government in its effort to cancel the petroleum debt of 115 million balboas. Meanwhile, the government has resumed talks with Venezuela on the cancellation of its outstanding oil debt with that nation, according to Commerce and Industries Minister Ricardo Fabrega.

Fabrega said the government presented Mexico with its latest offer to cancel the obligations that were left unpaid during the 1980's. This debt, after interest was factored in, drove the oil debt up to its current level. The minister noted that the proposed formula would prevent the Panamanian state from making large disbursements to cancel the obligations, while avoiding the accumulation of interest.

He also said that talks with Venezuela, to which Panama owes 131 million balboas for fuel purchases made within the framework of the San Jose Agreement, are scheduled to resume soon. According to the official, the Venezuelan Government has appointed a new negotiating team, with which Panamanian representatives will meet in the near future.

Last July, Venezuelan authorities sent Panama a letter asking that negotiations be resumed this year in a bid to reach an accord on debt payments. Panama has presented various proposals to the Venezuelan Government to cancel the obligations, but these proposals were rejected because of the lengthy term of amortization.

The Panamanian proposals have been based on repaying the debt over a 20-year term and the freezing of interest generated by noncompliance with the payment schedule. The former military regime stopped making payments for petroleum purchases within the San Jose Agreement, causing the debt with Mexico and Venezuela to increase to more than 246 million balboas.

Argentina

Menem: AMIA Bombing 'Work of Professionals'

PY1807214194 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1807 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Jul (NA)—President Carlos Menem has said that the attack on the Argentine Israeli Mutual Association (AMIA) this morning was the work of "professionals from outside supported by people from within." The president added that this type of crime "deserves nothing less than the death penalty."

"This does not have any rational explanation. We are talking about savage beasts on the loose. These types of human beasts, who are supposed to have some kind of understanding, do not deserve to continue living in an civilized community," said Menem, who was deeply moved by the criminal attack.

The president talked to various television and radio stations almost immediately after the magnitude of the terrible explosion at the AMIA became known. The president expressed his solidarity with the Jewish people in Argentina and the world over.

"I give an embrace and all my love to this marvelous people who are again suffering a deep wound as a result of this brutal and horrendous attack, a product of savage people on the loose," Menem said.

The president said he had been "in many difficult situations, but this incident overwhelms my capacity for understanding things."

"It is a very hard blow against a community I love and for which I have great affection. This does not have a rational explanation. They are beasts, savages," the president said.

"Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, who is a friend of mine, has offered an explanation. He said this incident is a product of the Middle East peace process, but I immediately wondered why they had chosen Argentina," the president added.

The tragedy gave the president an opportunity to again bring to the fore the controversial issue of the death penalty. Asked if those responsible for the attack deserved to continue living, the president said:

"What do those responsible for the attack deserve? To continue living? Or do we need a death penalty?" Menem said, referring to those who oppose including the death penalty in the Argentine penal code.

"What can those groups who continuously oppose including this type of measure in exceptional cases say?" Menem said, referring to groups for whom the death penalty in these cases "is out of the question."

The president said "no one, not the Argentine people, not the Israeli people," deserve this type of attack. "No one in his right mind can be responsible for this type of attack."

"I hope God will help us discover who is responsible for this truly terrible thing," Menem said, adding that he was in a "deplorable" mood.

The president said: "There are no words to explain what is really inexplicable, these demonstrations of horror and terror," and added: "Today, more than ever, I am close to the Israeli community, not only in Argentina, but throughout the world."

Menem said "this affects our image, and we must try to overcome this situation, but we must not forget that one of the largest Israeli communities in the world lives in Argentina. All this has obviously been planned from outside with support from within."

"We will do our utmost to find those responsible for this act of vandalism and horror. We have already made the decision to close our borders. Our neighboring countries have been advised of the situation," the president said.

Menem said "Argentina is a peaceful nation, without segregation. We have nothing to warn us of this type of terror. Professionals have come from outside, without a doubt. Otherwise, we cannot explain an attack of this magnitude."

"We cannot make any judgment on the situation until we receive a report from the police and security forces. This is a deplorable day for all Argentines. We are news around the world because of a terrorist attack. We will do our utmost to overcome the damage caused by those who live in a world of terror and death," the president said.

Menem added that those responsible for this type of incident "are individuals who enter the country, carry out the attack, and immediately afterward leave the country."

"All airports, ports, and border crossings are being controlled at this time. I trust we will be able to determine who was responsible for the attack," Menem added.

The president also revealed that "Israeli intelligence and security organizations will send their agents to cooperate with our investigation."

"In the past we talked about the need to create a secretariat to deal with these new forms of crimes, but there were many reactions against the proposal. The state must offer security, although these people are highly professional," Menem said.

The president said he has given instructions for "a prosecutors' team to start the investigation," adding that he talked with Interior Minister Carlos Ruckauf and asked him "to immediately return from the United States, where he had scheduled a series of lectures."

Government To Deal With 'Consequences' of Attack

PY1807222694 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2005 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Jul (NA)—The Argentine Government this afternoon decided to declare three days of national mourning and to "take responsibility for the consequences of the terrorist attack" that destroyed the headquarters of the Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association [AMIA] today.

This was President Carlos Menem's decision during a cabinet meeting he had called urgently following the bloody attack.

Media Secretary Raul Burzaco briefed the news media on the results of the meeting and reported that "12 deaths were confirmed" by 1500 [1800 GMT], adding that 100-120 people were injured.

Burzaco also stated that the cabinet was briefed about two persons who "are being held" in the course of the investigation of the attack.

During the cabinet meeting Menem telephoned Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who offered the cooperation of Israeli intelligence services for the investigation.

Rabin thanked Menem for "his concern" over the terrorist attack and "immediately offered to help out with the injured and the families that have been left homeless," Burzaco said.

Burzaco added that the Argentine Government "takes full responsibility for rendering assistance to those who are buried under the rubble and to the people who were injured both inside and outside the AMIA building because they are all Argentines, regardless of their faith."

Burzaco stated: "The government is also taking it upon itself to rebuild" the area damaged by the bomb. "Here we have not only casualties but also people who are now homeless, particularly those who were living in neighboring buildings."

The cabinet decided to set up a special committee of officials from the defense and interior ministries, the Secretariat for State Intelligence (SIDE), and Buenos Aires City Hall.

Interior Secretary Alberto Iribarne will chair this committee temporarily, until Interior Minister Carlos Ruckauf returns to the country on 19 July, early in the morning.

Burzaco concluded: "The administration has enough room in the hospitals, medicines, and other resources to cope with this emergency."

Government Studying Reasons for AMIA Attack

PY1807220994 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1859 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Jul (NA)—One of the hypotheses being studied by the government is that the attack against the Argentine Israeli Mutual Association [AMIA] headquarters "could have been a consequence of the good results being obtained in the peace negotiations" that are being carried out in the Middle East, Senate Provisional President Eduardo Menem said today.

In statements made before leaving Government House, Senator Menem ruled out the possibility that the sinister attack that took place in Buenos Aires "was the consequence of a specific circumstance in Argentina. It rather responds to interests abroad."

When asked whether the attack could have been the result of negligence by the intelligence services, Senator Menem said that one should not "make hasty judgments" on the subject.

Foreign Minister Links Attack to Mideast Peace Process

PY1907021594 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2058 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella has characterized the attack against the Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association (AMIA) "a move of international terrorism" linked to "Argentina's clear support for the Middle East peace process."

The official said: "On the chessboard of international terrorism, these pieces disagree with the Middle East peace process which Argentina so clearly supports."

The minister, however, rejected statements on the attack's possible authors by saying that "it is too early to say who they are."

Di Tella said that the intelligence services "are already investigating, starting to tie up loose ends, to unravel the ball."

Di Tella dismissed the possibility that this type of incident might pose a risk to Argentina's security, recalling that "similar episodes occur in many developed countries."

"Unfortunately, terrorist incidents like this are occurring in all countries of the world. They occur in England, the United States, Germany, Italy, and particularly Spain.

Di Tella said that President Carlos Menem "spoke on the phone with the Israeli prime minister and told him that a full investigation will be conducted."

"This is a tragedy. The Israeli prime minister said that this is part of a world problem because unfortunately terrorists do not respect borders or countries," Di Tella told a group of reporters at the site of the attack.

The minister concluded by saying that "this is not an attack against the Jewish community, but against the entire Argentine community."

News Conference Discusses Attack

PY1907025094 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 2130 GMT 18 Jul 94

[News conference with Alberto Iribarne, vice interior minister and acting interior minister, with unidentified reporters at Government House in Buenos Aires; live—broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Alberto Iribarne] ... at this time, as of 1830.

[Reporter] Has any detention been made?

[Iribarne] I would prefer that we organize our news conference by discussing separately rescue operations and the investigation that is already under way. Regarding rescue operations, I want to convey our gratitude for the overwhelming acts of solidarity over this tragedy. I also want to reassure the public that we are adequately prepared to undertake rescue operations should anyone be still buried under the debris at the AMIA [Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association] building. I also want to announce here that all hospitals where the victims have been taken have the necessary elements to treat these patients. I believe it important to convey this information through the media; that is, our gratitude to the people for their spontaneous cooperation, and to give assurances that the Federal Police, who are coordinating all rescue operations, have the necessary elements to undertake this task.

[Reporter] Is it true that the Israeli Government has sent one or two planes carrying equipment and teams specialized in rescue and antiterrorist operations to cooperate with the Argentine Government?

[Iribarne] Well, I have no information about that. In any case, that would be another topic of discussion. I just mentioned rescue efforts, the victims. Regarding the investigation, the president of the Republic this morning ordered—right after the attack—that the borders be closed, and that strict control be kept of departures from Argentine territory, whether through airports, ports, or border checkpoints. The order was confirmed later by a decree signed by the president early in the afternoon.

The president has also ordered the Justice Ministry to have the attorney general set up a team of ad hoc prosecutors to specifically undertake the task of investigating this attack.

[Reporter] Has an Iraqi been detained?

[Iribarne] Well, those are rumors. I want to announce that in addition to closing the border and to creating a team of ad hoc prosecutors, an executive committee has been set up to actively cooperate in the investigation which, as you know, is being conducted by Federal Judge Galeano. The executive committee will consist of members of the interior, national defense, and justice ministries and of SIDE [Secretariat for State Intelligence].

[Reporter] Is it a cause for concern to the government to have had two attacks of this magnitude in such a short time span; that is, this attack being perpetrated 28 months since the attack on the Israeli Embassy?

[Iribarne] This of course not only causes concern for the government, but it is also an act that causes the entire Argentine community to mourn. It is, of course, a major issue, one that causes concern. By order of the president, the government has decreed a three-day mourning period. This act is undoubtedly something that undermines the situation of the Argentine people.

[Reporter] Has this attack been claimed by the same group which perpetrated the one against the Israeli Embassy?

[Iribarne] Thus far no group has claimed responsibility for this attack.

[Reporter] What theories are you working on as to how the attack was perpetrated; that is, whether the bomb was planted inside or outside the AMIA?

[Iribarne] Investigations are of course under way. Federal police specialized teams and firemen are trying to determine how the attack was perpetrated, i.e., what kind of explosives were used, and how they were planted. It would be really hasty to pass any judgment on it at this time.

[Reporter] Would you inform us about the number of victims, please? That would be for ATC [Argentina Televisora Color Network] because we started broadcasting your news conference in progress. We would like you to report on the number of fatalities and injuries.

[Iribarne] There were 17 people killed, and 127 people sustained injuries. We will soon give you the list of the people injured. Of those deceased, only a few of them have been identified. Only four of the fatalities have been identified thus far. You will soon receive an updated list of those injured—including where they are being treated—and of those killed.

[Reporter] [question indistinct]

[Iribarne] In response to the lady, I want to reiterate that no group has thus far claimed responsibility for the attack. The reporter over there asked if the explosion was provoked by a car bomb. I also just said that specialized Federal Police teams and firemen are investigating the way, the manner, in which the attack occurred.

[Reporter] There was construction work inside the AMIA, right?

[Iribarne] Not really, although I know there was some movement there. In any case, I want to inform you that a Federal Police squad car was parked outside the

AMIA, and that the police personnel sustained serious injuries and are being treated at the Churruca Hospital.

[Reporter] Have loopholes within the security or intelligence systems caused the government to fail to detect the attack?

[Iribarne] There are of course several theories that are being considered. This is not, however, the time—considering that the attack just occurred—to make these theories public. In any case, I have just mentioned to you that there was a police guard at the building—a squad car was parked outside the entrance to the AMIA building. I cannot tell you accurately the internal security measures used by the AMIA members to prevent this type of event. I want to reiterate that the building was guarded by the police and that the personnel who were guarding the building are now being treated for serious injuries at the Churruca Hospital.

[Reporter] An injured witness said he had heard three blasts. To which theory is the Interior Ministry suscribing on this topic?

[Iribarne] Well, I would like to repeat that the investigation is being conducted by a federal judge. The president of the Republic has ordered that an executive committee be set up with representatives of the ministries of defense, justice, and the interior and SIDE to cooperate with the judge. It would be truly very hasty for me to speculate on how the attack occurred, how it was perpetrated, and who are the possible suspects, considering that no one has claimed responsibily for the attack.

[Reporter] Has any direct contact been made with the Israeli Government?

[Iribarne] I know the president left the cabinet meeting for a few minutes to talk on the phone with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. I believe a press communique has been issued on the conversation. I believe you should check the communique to see what they discussed.

[Reporter] Has President Menem asked the Israeli Government to help Argentina clear up the attack and identify the assailants?

[Iribarne] Well, I am not aware of the content of the conversation. Let me reiterate, however, that an executive committee has been created. This committee will ask for the cooperation of all international and national state organizations to obtain elements that would help us clear up the attack.

[Reporter] Could you please tell us if an Iraqi man and a German woman were detained?

[Iribarne] Yes. Two people have been detained and placed at the disposal of the presiding judge. I cannot give you more details. One person is an Iranian citizen; the other is German. I reiterate that I deem it hasty—and above all, something beyond my jurisdiction—to give any information on the degree of involvement of these people in the attack.

[Reporter] Where were they detained?

[Iribarne] They were detained at Ezeiza Airport.

[Reporter] Can you give us the gender of the detainees?

[Iribarne] Male and female.

[Reporter] How long will the security measures be enforced at the airports?

[Iribarne] Strict control will continue to be exercised on all departures. International flights have been resumed, but prior to strict check on all departing passengers, whether foreigners or Argentines.

[Reporter] When will these detainees appear before the judge?

[Iribarne] That is up to the judge. I cannot tell you when that is going to happen.

[Reporter] Will compensation be given to those people whose houses were damaged?

[Iribarne] Yes. The president has also made that decision. Economic compensation will be given to those people because, unfortunately, there is nothing else we can do. That decision, which was made by the president, will be obeyed. I want to reiterate here something I said earlier: The Argentine Government has adopted every measure to provide health care and other types of assistance to those people who have lost their homes, or who are going through a difficult situation because of the attack.

[Reporter] Which topics were discussed by the crisis committee consisting of representatives of the Interior Ministry, the Defense Ministry, and SIDE with President Menem?

[Iribarne] Well, we have considered a number of possibilities, but I cannot make any disclosure to you because I believe I would thus be just creating more confusion. I repeat: A judge is conducting the investigation. The government has adopted every exceptional measure needed to clear up the attack. A team of special prosecutors has been appointed by the attorney general to undertake the investigation. They will count on the cooperation of all state organizations under the coordination of the executive committee, which will also ask for the assistance of international organizations.

[Reporter] In addition to the measures you already mentioned; that is, a judge is conducting the investigation and a crisis committee has been created, what other measures will be adopted? The people are anxiously watching for developments, and there are still doubts about the attack.

[Iribarne] Yes, of course. This is the reason the government has decided to order every mechanism needed to conduct the investigation. We hope it will yield satisfactory results by identifying those responsible.

[Reporter] It has just been reported that President Menem will visit the scene of the crime?

[Iribarne] I am not aware of that report. President Menem has kept in touch with members of the Argentine Jewish community. The report may be true. I have no information and I cannot give you any specifics on the visit. At 1330, President Menem called an emergency cabinet meeting to discuss the attack and ordered a three-day mourning period as a result of the criminal attack that has affected the Argentine nation.

[Reporter] Could you confirm if there had been other attacks, or unsuccessful attacks. Early reports today mentioned that there were three false alarms.

[Iribarne] Yes. Those were false alarms. I believe the only one was the unfortunate attack that has affected the Argentine-Jewish community and the Argentine nation alike.

[Reporter] In its recent communique, the Interior Ministry announced that nothing else was needed. Yet, the people working at the scene of the attack said that food is needed. What can you tell us about that?

[Iribarne] I want to reiterate this: There was a hectic moment of course—and understandably so—shortly after the attack when I and Legal and Technical Secretary Carlos Corach went to the scene. There was mayhem there in light of the tension prevailing there, with relatives looking for their loved ones, and with volunteers willing to help. From the outset, we believe the operation had to be organized vertically. Thus, we decided to put the Federal Police in charge of the operation, of the task of coordinating efforts by the Red Cross, the Civilian Defense, and by other teams of volunteers. Let me reiterate that no elements are needed for rescue efforts or for treating the victims. If a policemen or a fireman asked for any help then, perhaps he did it because he was just too nervous. The situation is completely under control as far as rescue operations and treatment of the victims are concerned. Nothing is needed.

I want to take the opportunity afforded by this news conference to convey my gratitude to the residents of the capital for their solidarity, for their desire to help the victims. I reiterate, however, that the situation is under control and that the Federal Police are in charge of coordinating all these efforts.

Finally, I want to tell you—I believe this is important—that the Federal Police will welcome any information the people might have, any information that would be of interest to the investigation. Any information should be reported to phones 101, 405050, 3818041.

[Reporter] Do you believe this second attack could have been avoided had the investigations of the Israeli Embassy attack ended differently?

[Iribarne] I want to tell you that we, of course, have not lost the hope of clearing up the 1992 Israeli Embassy attack. As you know, the investigation is being conducted by the Argentine Supreme Court because the attack was perpetrated against a foreign embassy. I want to tell you that we have had the cooperation of intelligence services from major countries in the world. We have not yet reached conclusions. We are not losing the hope that the attack on the embassy will be cleared up. I repeat: We have had not only the participation of Argentine security and intelligence organizations, but also the cooperation of the world's leading security organizations. Unfortunately, we have been unable to identify those responsible.

[Reporter] Based on the information at hand, can any connection be made between this attack and the one on the embassy?

[Iribarne] Well, I do not want to speculate, but there are some obvious similarities, such as the magnitude of the explosion of today's criminal attack, which obviously leads us to compare it to the one against the Israeli Embassy.

[Reporter] Was the Argentine Government aware of a warning issued by the Israeli Government to its embassies about the detention of a pro-Iranian leader?

[Iribarne] Well, I could not comment on that. I have no information about that.

[Reporter] Could the same group that perpetrated the attack on the Israeli Embassy have been involved in this attack?

[Iribarne] Well, as I have just said, those are theories, and I could not indulge in risking theories only a few hours after the start of the investigations to determine the nature of the attack, and how it was perpetrated. Thus, I would rather not elaborate on that. We may say that there are similarities, but I could not conclude that one was a consequence of the other, or that there is an absolute connection between the two attacks.

[Reporter] It would be useful if you could repeat the phone numbers you gave a few minutes ago so that the people may cooperate.

[Iribarne] Yes, of course. I repeat that these numbers are for the people to provide any information of interest for the investigation. The numbers are 101, 405050, and 3818041.

[Reporter] Is the list of fatalities and injuries final?

[Iribarne] That is the list we have up to this moment. There are obviously some slightly injured people who are leaving hospitals, and there are unfortunately some cases that may ultimately become fatalities.

[Reporter] Please repeat the number of fatalities and injuries.

[Iribarne] The Interior Ministry figures are: 127 people who suffered injuries and 17 deceased. In a few minutes, we will hand you a list of those people injured and where they are hospitalized.

[Reporter] What role is the SIDE playing in this investigation, and what role has it played in the attack on the Israeli Embassy 28 months ago?

[Iribarne] Well, SIDE's role is that of an intelligence organization that has contacts with other world intelligence organizations because there is a serious possibility that the attackers came from abroad. Our intelligence organization—SIDE—has contacts with other intelligence organizations, especially in the Western world.

[Reporter] Is the government considering the possibility that even though the attackers may have come from abroad, they may have had local help?

[Iribarne] Well, as I have just said, all these are just theories. I do not want to get down to specifics. There is an ongoing investigation of an attack that occurred a few hours ago, and I do not want to risk any theory. I will answer a last question because I have....

[Reporter, interrupting] Has Argentina become a key point for international terrorism in light of the two attacks perpetrated in a short time span?

[Iribarne] There are different theories. There is a large Jewish community in Argentina, the fourth largest in the world, but we do not want to risk any theory to this effect.

[Reporter] ATC is broadcasting live to the nation. Before closing, would you like to deliver a message to the people?

[Iribarne] No, but to close this news conference, I would say that this attack has brought grief not only to the Jewish community, but also to the entire Argentine community, to all people residing in Argentina, to all people striving for peace. We have done nothing to deserve this type of attack. I am truly shocked. I went to the AMIA building shortly after the attack, and I think it was a horrible sight; it was an unfortunate crime.

In addition to our commitment to try to give some economic compensation to the victims, because there is no way of compensating them for the loss of their loved ones, we want to assure them that the president of the Republic is determined to pursue the investigation to the end to punish those responsible for the attack.

[Reporter] Thank you.

PLO Representative 'Profoundly Laments' Attack

PY1807180394 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1735 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Jul (NA)—The Argentine office of the PLO, through its head Suhayl 'Aqil, today repudiated the attack against the headquarters of the AMIA [Argentine Israeli Mutual Association], and denied that any sector of his group is involved in the incident.

"We profoundly lament this attack against peace," the PLO representative said in remarks to the media.

"Our utmost desire is that this attack will not remain under the silence of impunity," the Palestinian representative said, and it is his belief that "this incident will not affect the Middle East peace process."

"The organization," he concluded, "is against this type of attack."

Communique Issued on Attack

PY1807173894 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1653 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Jul (NA)—The PLO office in Argentina this afternoon condemned the attack that destroyed the premises of the Argentine Israeli Mutual Association (AMIA).

"We hope that this lamentable and painful event will not remain under the silence of impunity, and that its intellectual and active perpetrators receive the punishment they deserve," the PLO states in a communique.

The PLO "energetically" condemned "this act of violence, which has cost the lives of innocent people in the building that houses the Jewish institution AMIA."

Judge: No One Arrested 'So Far' in AMIA Bombing

PY1907041394 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0117 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Jul (NA)—Federal Judge Juan Jose Galeano, who is hearing the case involving an explosion at the Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association [AMIA] building, said tonight that so far no one has been arrested for involvement in the bloody incident.

Galeano also said that the remains of five of the 12 individuals held at the judicial morgue were handed over to their relatives. Several sacks with human remains were transported to the judicial morgue.

Judge Galeano drove to the morgue in the company of prosecutors Jose Barbaccia and Eamon Mullen to give precise instructions to morgue officials to deliver the remains of victims lying there to their relatives in the shortest possible time after fulfilling the legal requirements.

Galeano made these remarks at the Justice Palace after a meeting with Police Superintendent Jorge Luis Passero and other officers at the Federal Police Central Department to be briefed on the initial steps in the investigation to determine who was responsible for the attack.

Iraqi Citizen 'Detained' at Border

PY1907033994 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0200 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Jul (NA)—An Iraqi citizen carrying a Brazilian passport issued in 1973 has been detained at the border town of Paso de Los Libres, in Corrientes Province, trying to leave the country.

This was reported by President Carlos Menem during and interview with America Television shortly before 2300 [0100 GMT on 19 July].

Menem said it has been reported that the Iraqi "is being questioned by a judge at Paso de Los Libres."

The president said State Intelligence Secretary Hugo Anzorregui handed him a report a few minutes before, adding that the report contained additional information that he preferred not to discuss.

Police Release Iranian Citizen

PY1907001894 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2206 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Jul (EFE)—An official source told EFE tonight that the Iranian citizen detained at Ezeiza International Airport shortly after the attack against an Israeli building in Buenos Aires was released and is "above any suspicion."

The individual was ready to board a plane of the Venezuelan Airline "VIASA" to travel to Caracas when the police stopped the plane and detained all passengers.

The source, who is from the Buenos Aires Province Security Secretariat, and who asked EFE not to reveal his name, told this news agency that the Iranian citizen and a 27 year-old German woman who were being held in preventive custody at the airport have been released and were cleared of all suspicion.

Alberto Santamarina, Lomas de Zamora Federal Judge, initially interrogated the two suspects and then ordered their release. The two individuals then returned to their plane to take the same flight suspended at noon when all airports were ordered closed.

First International Flights Leave Buenos Aires

PY1907011494 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2208 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Jul (EFE)—Ezeiza International Airport in Buenos Aires was authorized to allow international flights to depart as of 1730 (2030 GMT), although the first commercial plane to depart did not leave until two hours later.

The government ordered all borders closed this morning shortly after 1300 GMT, a few minutes after the attack against an Argentine-Israeli institution, to prevent those responsible for the attack from leaving the country.

All other airports, ports, and ground border passes were also opened.

An Iberia [Spanish Airlines] and Viasa [Venezuelan Airlines] responsible source told EFE that the temporary closure of Ezeiza Airport produced chaos at the terminal.

More than 3,000 people crowded the exit halls of Aerolineas Argentinas' international and private sections.

The operation gradually started returning to normal, although the control of passengers' identification and the registration of baggage and packages continued with slowness and caution, causing even more delays.

Iberia's flight, which was supposed to have left at 0330 for Madrid will leave at 0830 (2330 GMT), a Spanish Airline field officer told EFE.

Anonymous Bomb Threat Received 'Two Months Ago'

PY1807174494 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1710 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Jul (NA)—The Delegation of Argentine-Jewish Associations (DAIA) two months ago received an anonymous threat that outlined the plan to blow up the building of the Jewish community in Buenos Aires.

This was revealed this afternoon by Ruben Beraja, the head of the organization, on his second visit today to the site of the explosion that destroyed the AMIA [Argentine Jewish Mutual Association] building in the 600th block of Pasteur St.

Suspected Briefcase Bomb Found To Contain No Explosives

PY1807182394 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1740 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Jul (NA)—The Federal Police have reported that the briefcase that was found at noon today at the corner of Corrientes Avenue and Pasteur St. did not contain explosives.

Police indicated that personnel from the explosives brigade had proceeded to preventively detonate the briefcase due to fear that it might contain an explosive device.

The briefcase was found just 200 meters from the headquarters of the AMIA [Argentine Israeli Mutual Association], which was destroyed this morning by a powerful explosion.

Roundup of Economic Reports

PY1507164694

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on economic activities in Argentina monitored through 14 July.

In June, local car production totaled 34,444 cars, which represents a 0.3 percent increase as compared with May and a 13.2 percent increase compared to June of 1993. According to figures supplied by the Association of Motor Vehicle Manufacturers (ADEFA), car production during the first half of the year was 34.6 percent higher than during the first half of last year. June exports totaled 3,470 cars, representing a 5.1 percent drop as compared with May and a 10.8 percent increase compared with June 1993. Concerning exports during the first half of the year, ADEFA noted that 16,047 cars have been exported, which represents a 143.7 percent increase compared with the first half of 1993. (Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1827 GMT 9 Jul 94)

The Government Oil Deposits (YPF) company will become involved in oil exploration and exploitation activities in the United States through a subsidiary company that will be entirely owned by the Argentine oil company. To this end, the YPF board of directors approved, during its last meeting, the establishment of a stock company in the United States. (Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2220 GMT 13 Jul 94)

The national government announced today that in an effort to reduce the unemployment rate, it will allocate 2.7 million pesos for the Intensive Work Program (PIT) and 3.2 million pesos for the promotion of private employment. (Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2026 GMT 8 Jul 94)

Bolivia

Government Denies Plans for Compulsory Coca Eradication

PY1807133294 Cochabamba LOS TIEMPOS in Spanish 11 Jul 94 p A6

[Text] La Paz, 10 Jul (ANF)—Social Defense Secretary Mario Soliz reported today that since 23 March the government has not taken a single action for the compulsory eradication of coca.

He thus denied reports by coca producers and congressmen of clandestine plans and agreements with the U.S. Embassy for the militarization of the Chapare and compulsory eradication.

"If we had wanted to do so we would have done so, as the law allows it," he said. Soliz added that the government intends to hold talks and reach a consensus with the peasants for jointly eradicating the surplus coca crops.

The executive branch trusts that it will convince the peasants of the supposed advantages of voluntary eradication without the use of or actions by the Armed Forces.

"They are aware of a number of things, and expressed their agreement to fight in a joint manner against drug trafficking," he said. This also includes the fight against the illegal import of precursors, which are then diverted toward the manufacture of cocaine.

Soliz said that this fight includes the destruction of the so-called surplus coca plantations "and everything that is against the law."

He added, however, that the alternative development programs must be promoted to replace what is known as the cocaine economy.

Soliz added that the government expects a report from the COB [Bolivian Labor Federation] and from the Peasant Confederation to resume talks on the surplus coca crops.

Slow Progress of Alternative Development Seen

94WD0456Z La Paz HOY in Spanish 14 Jun 94 p 8

[Article by "special correspondent" Jannett Oporto Villegas]

[Text] A reporters' visit to the Chapare attested to the meager progress achieved by the controversial alternative development initially lauded by the U.S. Government and financial institutions. The lack of funds for promoting programs of this kind, aimed at substituting for coca production in that region, is the main factor preventing their full implementation. For the present, the Executive Branch and the campesinos are attempting to reach agreement on the means that will advance the viability of this option.

The distrust among the settlers in the Cochabamba's Chapare toward the eradication of their coca plantations and the diversification of their economy remains latent, even though a large part of the population has replaced the coca crops with other products.

Rural electrification, the proclaimed highway construction and improvement, the slight diversification in the quality of farm products, the drinking water supply, and the construction of educational units and health stations (executed by the government and the international assistance agencies, primarily USAID) have not succeeded in convincing the region's settlers.

The inhabitants of this area are afraid to exchange their coca plantations because (they claim) it would not allow them to accrue profits such as they have been and are still accruing from the coca leaf crops which, in their view, have been intended for domestic consumption. They are also worried about the project's becoming a long-term one.

Visit to the Development Site

Under the auspices of the United States Information and Cultural Service (USIS) and the La Paz Journalists Association, this weeke d several news media from all er the country visited the area, checking the work being done in the alternative development field.

They visited crops of pineapple, bananas, palmetto, and black pepper, packing plants, the "Milka" milk processing plant, the Chimore tea plant, and the Vascal group's agroindustrial complex. They also observed private enterprises engaged in installing other works to serve the same purpose (eradicating coca plantations and converting the region into a grower of other products).

Although one could see evidence of the campesinos' effort to improve the production of the crop selected to be produced as an alternative to coca, it was also obvious that they are not fully convinced that this will be the solution to their financial problems.

Most of the so-called "alternative producers" claim to have been engaged in this work for 10 or 15 years, noting that they opted for this course of action on their own initiative.

In the 14 de Septiembre region, one of the most troubled with respect to drug trafficking activity, a head of the Pinas de Invierno [winter pineapple] production plant said that it is very difficult to accept alternative development from the standpoint of income. Hence, he rejected the notion that the initiative could put an end to the coca leaf plantations.

He emphasized: "If the government continues to help us, this program could prove positive; but if not, we are sure that we'll be returning to coca production."

Other campesinos who have joined in this initiative claim that, to maintain alternative development, it is important that the government and the international agencies involved in this effort continue to benefit them with the construction of access roads leading to the production centers.

Increased Productivity

According to the reports furnished by the goverment, production of bananas, pineapple, and citrus fruit increased fourfold during the past seven years, and great expectations have been generated for exporting.

In 1986, banana production totaled 54,000 tons annually, and the area devoted to growing bananas represented 7,075 hectares. At present, they are being grown on 10,875 hectares, and their production exceeds 143,000 metric tons per year, with a large percentage of improved production. This has made it possible to export to markets such as Chile and Argentina.

One of the principal demands of the alternative producers is the opportunity that the respective authorities could offer for their products to obtain a larger market, so as to raise the production percentage.

Pineapple is another product that has gained a good international market. Its production increased from 1,500 metric tons in 1986 to nearly 5,000 in 1993. The growing area in 1986 was 245 hectares, rising to 1,773 in 1993.

Oranges and other citrus fruit also had tripled production, with an increase from 28,000 tons on 2,031 hectares to nearly 68,000 tons on over 6,000 hectares.

Black pepper, palmetto, and passion fruit are other priority production lines still in the research process, depending on the results with respect to market and demand.

Nevertheless, 32 hectares of pepper, 241 of palmetto, and 63 of passion fruit have already begun developing.

Long and Medium Term

According to Jorge Aldunate, a USAID technician, pineapple production to date has been 17,000 plants per hectare. However, starting with the next harvest, that number will increase to 40,000 plants per hectare, which will enable the producing campesino to earn $4,000 or $6,000 per harvest.

He claimed that alternative development should be viewed from the standpoint of a medium- or long-term process.

He remarked: "Alternative development exists, but I agree that this effort is not demonstrating very short-term goals. However, the important thing is the impact on the campesino economy. We are working very efficiently for that purpose, granting them many facilities."

Nevertheless, the USAID official also admitted that, for a large number of coca growers in the Chapare, the direct profits amount to only 10 or 15 percent.

Roundup of Economic Reports

PY1507184394

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on economic activities in Bolivia monitored through 14 July.

Economic Development Minister Fernando Cossio said on 4 July that the GDP had increased by about 4 percent during the first half of the year. He noted that hydrocarbons production rose by 17 percent and that daily oil production totals approximately 30,000 barrels. He added that this was a good year for agriculture, and that electricity consumption increased by 17 percent. (La Paz LA RAZON in Spanish 5 Jul 94 p A12)

The National Statistics Institute, INE, reported that the economy grew 4.1 percent during the year's first five months, as compared with the 4.6 percent registered for the first two months and 4.4 percent for the year's first quarter. As compared with the same period last year, hydrocarbons increased 11.7 percent; oil production 18.8 percent; mining 10.6 percent; manufacturing products 4 percent; electricity and potable water 8.5 percent; construction 0.2 percent; commerce 0.3 percent; transportation 3.2 percent; telecommunications 10.2 percent; and financial services 12 percent. (La Paz HOY in Spanish 2 Jul 94 p 11)

Cochabamba Department has become the country's second largest oil producer with 25 percent of total production. Statistics show that Cochabamba oil wells have this year produced 762,177 barrels through April 1994, as compared with the 342,000 barrels produced during the same period last year. The study also shows that 58 percent of the barrels were produced by Bolivian Government Oil Deposits in the Carrasco, Bulo Bulo, and Katari fields. The remaining production for the department was by the U.S. Maxus company, operating in Surubi. Santa Cruz is the top oil producer, with 45 percent, while Tarija produces 16 percent and Chuquisaca 14 percent. (Santa Cruz EL MUNDO in Spanish 2 Jul 94 Section 2 p 1)

Preliminary figures delivered by the National Finance Secretariat show that public investment between January and June reached only $200 million. Budget Under Secretary Gonzalo Afcha said that this investment is lower than what was projected in the general budget because of the delay in approving that document. A government source said that public investment could rise to $700 million through the end of the year, but that this is not enough to obtain successful growth and reactivation of the economy—the ideal being an investment of no less than $1.5 billion. (La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 30 Jun 94 p 1)

The INE has reported that the June inflation rate was 0.48 percent and the cumulative inflation rate 2.9 percent for the first half of the year. Food and beverages registered the highest increase, with 0.24 percent; housing 0.09 percent; household equipment and supplies 0.06 percent; clothes and shoes 0.03 percent; health 0.01 percent; transportation and communications 0.01 percent; goods and services 0.01 percent; and education 0.01 percent. (La Paz LA RAZON in Spanish 2 Jul 94 pp B4-B5)

The Central Bank has reported that gross international reserves rose to $581.1 million and net international reserves to $448.3 million through 9 June. Free reserves amounted to $434 million, and gold holdings to $39.6 million. Service to debt requirements totalled $132.8 million during this period. (Cochabamba LOS TIEMPOS in Spanish 1 Jul 94 p A5)

The Inter-American Development Bank, IDB, has agreed to a $4.5 million loan designed to improve the tax revenue collection administration system and to implement tax collection policy reforms. IDB representative Johann A. Schmalzle said these funds will come from special operation funds. (La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 28 Jun 94 p 4)

On 4 July Bolivian Ambassador to Japan Jorge Balcazar Aranibar said that he will try to improve the trade imbalance that exists between the two countries. Annual exports to Japan amount to only $5 million, while imports from that country are at the level of $110 million. (Santa Cruz EL MUNDO in Spanish 5 Jul 94 Section 2 p 2)

Brazil

Government Sends Condolences to Argentina on AMIA Attack

PY1907010694 Sao Paulo AGENCIA ESTADO in Portuguese 2330 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Brasilia, 18 Jul (AE)—The Brazilian Government today sent to Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella its condolences regarding the attack against the Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association [AMIA] headquarters, which took place this morning in Buenos Aires, and in which 17 people died. "In this painful moment, the Brazilian Government and people express their solidarity with the sister nation of Argentina, whose society was deeply shaken by this brutal terrorist action, which we firmly repudiate with indignation."

In another message sent to his Argentine colleague Guido Di Tella, Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Amorim expressed solidarity with the Argentine Government. His message reads as follows: "I have learned in London of the attack that took place this morning in Buenos Aires. I want to immediately express to you my consternation and express my solidarity in this sad moment for the Argentine nation and for all of us. I beg you, Mr. Minister, to accept my sincere condolences."

Journalist Authors Expose on Arms Industry, Piva

94SM0391A Sao Paulo ISTOE in Portuguese 25 May 94 p 88

[Review by Jayme Brener of book *Rede de intrigas (Network of Intrigues)* by Roberto Lopes, Record Publishing House, no date: "Tank of Lies"; introductory paragraph in boldface as published]

[Text] **The book** *Rede de intrigas (Network of Intrigues)* by journalist Roberto Lopes reveals the dirty goings-on behind the scenes in the Brazilian arms industry.

The soldier in the desert lifts his sand-covered face, aims his submachine gun, and fires. To his surprise, the bullets slice through an armored vehicle. The tank crew is even more perplexed. The scene is imaginary, but it could have happened, according to journalist Roberto Lopes, an expert on military matters. In his book *Rede de intrigas*—a real revolving machine gun aimed at what goes on behind the scenes in Brazil's arms industry—one of the many episodes Lopes relates has to do with the exporting of Engesa [Specialized Engineers, Inc.] Cascavel armored cars with defective armor to Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's Libya in 1974. Engesa flatly denies it, but Roberto Lopes claims that Brazilian military and civilians were bribed to make that deception possible.

The central thesis presented by Lopes, who covered military affairs for FOLHA DE SAO PAULO for six years and is now special adviser to the Sao Paulo State Secretariat of Science and Technology, is that the size of the Brazilian arms industry—which in the 1980's was

said to be the sixth-largest in the world—was artificially inflated by "big-talking businessmen and military who, in those golden years, were always walking about three feet off the ground." Lopes explains the megalomaniac plan. "The entire country, including us journalists, was manipulated to an extraordinary extent because military men and industrialists in that sector needed the media in order to present themselves on the international stage," he told ISTOE. In the journalist's opinion, "the arms industry went bankrupt because it was a political rather than a business initiative, and it started leaking when its big backers—the military—lost their influence in Brazilian society." The author also criticizes the constant publication of "inflated" figures regarding the performance of Brazilian plants producing tanks and rockets. "There was even talk of exports worth $2 billion per year when the average never exceeded $450 million per year even during the best of times," he said.

Rede de intrigas spares very few people, but it saves its particularly sharp barbs for the three biggest names in our country's arms industry: Jose Luiz Whitaker Ribeiro, the former owner of Engesa; Joao Verdi, the owner of Avibras [Avibras Aerospace Industry, Inc.]; and Ozires Silva, superintending director of Embraer [Brazilian Aeronautics Company]. For example, the book tells about a meeting hosted by Ozires Silva in 1989 between Leopoldo Collor, brother of the presidential candidate at the time, and businessmen in the industry. One of those present at that meeting, which was held in Sao Jose dos Campos, was Air Force General Sergio Ferolla, currently commandant of the War College and a top candidate to receive a ministry if Luis Inacio Lula da Silva is elected. When Leopoldo began reeling off an endless list of requests for money, one of those in attendance protested: "You did not understand. The defense industry is broke. We are the ones who need help." The only thing that "First Brother" Leopoldo is said to have gotten was a promise of the loan of a bus from Transvip [expansion not given]—a transportation company owned by Avibras—for use at a political rally by Collor in Sao Jose. Avibras has always denied that that meeting took place.

In another section of the book, Lopes claims that controversial Major General Hugo Piva, who worked in Saddam Hussein's Iraq, offered the dictator the atomic bomb and a missile for carrying nuclear warheads. Piva admits only that he helped in the development of an air-to-air missile used in air combat. According to the journalist, the general also tried to do business in war technology with the Iranian Government after Saddam's fiasco in the Gulf War (1991). And while it was selling weapons to Iraq, Brazil revealed a tendency toward double dealing by also negotiating to cooperate with the Israeli military industry.

In *Rede de intrigas*, Roberto Lopes makes the first well-documented attempt at a critical analysis of the Brazilian arms industry. This is not a book for the general public. The journalist frequently sacrifices fluency for the exhaustive presentation of documents and explanations. There are also important inaccuracies: Lopes confuses the Israelis (a nationality) with the Jews (a religion). But the book is interesting not only because of the tremendous amount of previously unreported information it contains but also because of its humor laced with caustic doses of irony. Lopes relates the horror of an Engesa engineer when, during a luncheon in Iraq, he was presented with a typical dish topped with two gleaming sheep's eyes. And when telling about a dental and optical equipment firm's entry into the missile market, he jokes: "An optical bench does not fly, does not pursue, and does not explode."

Chile

Frei Condemns Buenos Aires Attack, Backs Closure of Borders

PY1807192094 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1735 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Santiago, 18 Jul (AFP-NA)—According to official sources, Chilean President Eduardo Frei has telephoned Argentine President Carlos Menem to express Chile's "sorrow" and "repudiation" in light of the anti-Semitic attack that was perpetrated today in Buenos Aires.

Chilean Foreign Minister Carlos Figueroa has moreover supported the Argentine Government's decision to close its borders to impede an escape by the perpetrators of the attack, which killed 20 and destroyed the AMIA [Argentine Israeli Mutual Association] building.

Figueroa said: "It is an appropriate measure, and we are assisting them in this task."

Police Warn of Possible Attacks

PY1907043194 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 0100 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Here in Chile, while the Foreign Ministry and the Israeli Embassy expressed their repudiation for the attack in Buenos Aires, the Chilean Investigative Police said that Israeli secret services had warned that there was a possibility terrorist actions could take place in the Southern Cone.

[Begin Investigative Police Officer Aroldo Lopez recording, identified by caption] We were warned, just as the police general director said, so we had adopted the appropriate measures to indirectly guard the embassy to prevent anything from happening there. Unfortunately, the attack took place in Buenos Aires. We hope nothing will happen here. [end recording]

Meanwhile, a GOPE [Special Police Operations Group] patrol was deployed to the Israeli Embassy today at noon but did not go inside the embassy.

The Israeli charge d'affaires repudiated and regretted the attack, adding that he did not know about the warnings the Chilean Investigative Police referred to. As for the

reason why these attacks should have taken place in Argentina, the charge said the following:

[Begin Israeli Charge d'Affaires Meron Reuben recording, identified by caption] It is difficult to know. It would seem that it is easier to work in Latin America, where—let us say—there is no experience with this kind of violence. We hope this will be the last attack. [end recording]

In conclusion, he said that no threats of any kind were received at the Israeli Embassy .

Roundup of Economic Reports

PY1507204494

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on economic activities in Chile monitored through 14 July.

The Association of Exporters of Nontraditional Manufactured Products has reported that exports of manufactured products totalled $560.7 million in the year's first four months, an increase of 14.4 percent as compared with the same period last year. Machines and equipment registered the highest increase with $34 million or 53.4 percent; foods $39.8 million or 47.4 percent; wood products $55.6 million or 41.6 percent; chemicals $21.8 million or 33.1 percent; and textiles $42.2 million or 20.7 percent. Exports of sea products dropped by $39.9 million or 18 percent; leather and shoes $7.3 million or 15.9 percent; and metal manufacturing by $39.8 million or 12.7 percent. The American continent accounts for 80 percent of exports, Asia and the Middle East 10 percent, and Europe 9.8 percent. (Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 28 Jun 94 p B3)

The commercial exchange between Chile and South Korea has registered movement in two directions during the year's first four months, as compared with the same period in 1993. Exports rose to $154.1 million, an increase of 19.9 percent, while imports were at $104.2 million, dropping 15.6 percent. Exports of copper and copper products totalled $18.6 million, 12.07 percent of the total; gold compounds $7.3 million or 4.75 percent; metal manufacturing $6.4 million or 4.17 percent; and wood pulp $11.8 million or 7.7 percent. Among Chile's main imports are electrical appliances, while vehicles accounted for $38.5 million or 36.9 percent of the total worth of imports. With these figures South Korea became the fifth largest Chilean commercial partner during the year's first four months, after the United States, Japan, Argentina, and Germany. (Santiago ESTRATEGIA in Spanish 30 Jun 94 p 26)

On 30 June the Central Bank reported that oil production totalled 208,228 barrels for the first quarter in 1994, a drop of 8.8 percent as compared with the same period in 1993. Oil imports amounted to 11,509,277 barrels, an increase of 26 percent; and fuel exports increased by 6.2 percent, for a total of $29 million. Nigeria, Ecuador, and Argentina were the main suppliers with 80 percent of the total. (Santiago ESTRATEGIA in Spanish 1 Jul 94 p 8)

Mining Minister Benjamin Teplizky has reported that mining activity has risen by 410 percent in the 11th Region over the past six years. He noted that the production and sale of zinc and gold greatly contributed to this growth. He added that mining exports from this zone yielded $79.4 million in 1992, which was 32 percent higher than in the previous year. (Santiago ESTRATEGIA in Spanish 28 Jun 94 p 20)

Colombia

Security Head on Cali Cartel, 'Narcocassettes'

PA1707203894 Santa Fe de Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 10 Jul 94 pp A-1, A-5

["Exclusive" interview with Fernando Britto Ruiz, director of Colombia's Administrative Department of Security, DAS, by Julian Rios Rojas; place and date not given; first eleven paragraphs are introduction]

[Text] DAS Director Fernando Britto Ruiz has disclosed the Cali Cartel has devised a new strategy of maneuvering its entire logistical apparatus toward other regions of the country and abroad in order to prevent counterattacks from concentrating in the department of Valle del Cauca.

In an interview with this newspaper, Britto has said the case of the narcocassettes, in which political campaigns are charged with accepting Cali Cartel money, must be thoroughly investigated, because we will not know whether this entire matter is just another mafia strategy until the source of the recording is revealed.

He has also said there are drug trafficking links to Colombian professional soccer in order to launder money through the purchases and sales of players.

Britto believes a major frustration he experienced during his term as head of the DAS was being unable to capture Francisco Caraballo, even though he was always on his trail and had good clues about his whereabouts.

Britto knew that the Army was following the movements of Caraballo, a Popular Liberation Army leader, and that the situation had transformed the investigations conducted by the two organizations into some type of rivalry.

Britto's greatest victory was promoting important procedures within the institution that were, he believes, beneficial to the entire country. His main task focused on refining intelligence operations and making information more systematic.

He honestly believes that the DAS is well received at the national level and that he was able to increase the professionalism of DAS employees through his work.

Britto, a Pereira attorney, will not return to his native city but will travel abroad, to where he has decided to pursue a specialization once his term is over.

During an exclusive interview with EL ESPECTADOR, Britto clarified that soccer bets are real and that drug traffickers are still using this sport to launder money through the purchases and sales of players. He knows that the Cali Cartel controls 80 percent of the cocaine and that this organization has begun to follow in Pablo Escobar's footsteps in managing this illegal business.

He believes a strong campaign must be implemented against the financial system of drug trafficking organizations, and he assures declaring money laundering a crime constitutes the basic step.

[Rios] What results have the campaign against the Cali Cartel yielded?

[Britto] We have a task force that had to be surrounded by special measures, because the cartel's capability for corruption is unmistakingly very high.

We have made significant achievements and have reached their key areas. We have also seized in certain operations computer centers which are used to process important information and which constitute an essential part of the cartel's communications system. That has enabled us to learn more about its structure.

There is always someone who, for any reason, is willing to sell information and warn the drug traffickers, but we have always worked with the purpose of minimizing any risk in that regard. I maintain these criminals will be located and arrested sooner or later.

The fact they have said they have drawing power vis-a-vis other drug groups in criminal activity is serious and grave evidence they are a dangerous organization. This evidence exists and is on record.

[Rios] Why have they not been arrested if everyone knows they are in Cali?

[Britto] For the same reason Escobar was not found, because they are not novices. They have been involved in criminal activities for 15 or 17 years, and they have resorted to allusive security systems during that time. They have recruited, for instance, former members of government organizations who had knowledge and experience to help them organize their deployment and communications operations. This compounds the corruption which they promote and which, unfortunately, enables them to obtain information regarding the authorities' moves and projects under way for their capture.

Everything they are able to learn about government operations is of key interest to them. Not only do they seek the information in police and investigative sectors but also in political circles.

They also manage, obviously, misinformation well. As Pablo Escobar used a system of that type to concoct things, the Cali Cartel resorts to those methods to generate mistrust.

The Cali Cartel is somewhat different, because it involves various groups in various sectors that have relative capability and fall within the influence of the Rodriguez Orejuela, Santacruz, and Herrera clans. These clans control everything at the business and management levels and have the power to issue orders to small drug trafficking groups and organizations.

They formulate key policies and set conditions. One such policy was the order to dismantle everything related to drug trafficking activities in Valle del Cauca.

The other groups, which decided to move their laboratories to other areas of the country, are heeding that order. The Cali Cartel is defining policies regarding its business.

According to estimates by security organizations, the Cali Cartel controls 80 percent of Colombian cocaine. Its high participation in drug operations is known worldwide.

They have changed many of the systems and established alliances with other criminal organizations to set up laboratories in other countries. As actions by the Public Forces have intensified, the organization has devised and sought new formulas.

They export technologies and information to set up laboratories in other nations to some extent.

[Rios] Who is behind the narcocassettes?

[Britto] The Prosecutor General's Office is handling this matter. We are not directly involved in this investigation right now. What we can say is that the source is not clear; that is, we do not know its origin.

We have been unable to determine from where the narcocassettes came, who had access to this type of recording, or the identity of the person who delivered it.

The Prosecutor General's Office has a report indicating certain conversations were edited from the narcocassettes. What we have been able to determine is that there is a strategy to deliver the conversations bit by bit.

Regarding journalist Alberto Giraldo's situation, this should be viewed as a penal matter, because all Colombian citizens have a duty to inform authorities of the whereabouts of a person being sought by the law, as with the Rodriguez Orejuela case. I believe this is a crime.

If the recording was made by some government body, there was a serious failure of not informing the authorities so they could have captured them, because there was even mention of dates and places to meet.

[Rios] Are there soccer bets?

[Britto] There is heavy betting in several areas. It may be on a soccer game or other games. This type of betting is usual for these types of people, because they complement their business or entertainment with this activity.

This issue is one dating back a long time and is dealt with at the interpersonal level. It is a very common and generalized behavior, difficult to control.

Betting is a hot topic, and it not only happens in our country. It has always been linked to drug trafficking and to a high crime rate. Andres Escobar's case was fortuitous and was not planned.

I believe Andres Escobar's murder was not retaliatory or to avenge a debt for having lost a game. It would have been a different matter had paid assassins been used.

Even though it is a little less now, soccer is still a method of laundering money. There are unsubstantiated reports indicating drug trafficking is still linked to the purchase and selling of players.

Despite so much difficulty, ways to face criminal organizations have become more consolidated. Headway has been made in the financial aspect, which the government believes is the most important factor in this struggle.

One of the greatest concerns all over the world is how to improve and strengthen action against mafia structures, an area that is sometimes complicated to attack due to the fact it is difficult to control banking operations, which need to be agile and expeditious.

One of the priorities is to make money laundering a crime. There is a draft bill on this issue, but this should be clear and should be studied urgently, because we need this law to eradicate drug trafficking networks.

Search Bloc Finds List of Officials Allegedly Receiving Bribes

PA1607030394 Santa Fe de Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 10 Jul 94 p 5A

[Text] The Army and Police Elite Force, which are responsible for pursuing leaders of the Cali cartel, have found a list of several members of Colombian security organizations who have allegedly received bribes from the cartel.

The list was found during a search that resulted in the seizure of important documents and the arrest of Guillermo Gonzalez y Palomar, presumably a Chilean who is suspected of being one of the Cali cartel's security chiefs.

The blow against the gang led by Jose Santacruz and the Gilberto and Miguel Rodriguez brothers was dealt amid an obvious intensification of operations to locate the criminals' hideout following the discovery of attempts by the drug organization to infiltrate the campaigns of President-elect Ernesto Samper and his rival, Andres Pastrana.

Spokesmen for the so-called Search Bloc, which operates in Cali, said that since last Monday at least 10 databases have been discovered in homes and at companies whose owners are linked to Santacruz.

The discovery of several computer disks in those places has allowed intelligence organizations to trace 23 bank accounts in which Cali cartel heads reportedly deposited part of their dirty money.

According to the reports, other important documents were found yesterday in an office owned by Palomar y Gonzalez—known as Reagan. The documents included the names of security organization members who have presumably cashed checks remitted by front men for Santacruz and the Rodriguez brothers.

Journalists reported today that as a result of the discovery of those documents, the houses of retired Army noncommissioned officers Jorge Florez, Jorge Galindez, and Jesus Arcila were searched. No details on the operations have been disclosed.

The Rodriguez brothers' attempt to infiltrate Samper's and Pastrana's political campaigns created a scandal in the country. The incident began when a cassette recording of three telephone conversations between prominent journalist Alberto Giraldo and Gilberto and Miguel Rodriguez was made public. In these conversations, Giraldo relates his attempts to infiltrate the campaigns with Cali cartel money.

Giraldo told journalists, and he had told the Prosecutor General's Office, that the financial advisers of the Samper and Pastrana campaigns had rejected any dubious contributions.

The raids against the so-called Cali and Valle del Cauca drug cartels will be increased as part of the operations that have extended to the eastern plains and the southern region. According to Brigadier General Jose Eugenio Reyes Lopez, metropolitan police commander in Cali, the objective is to fight criminal organizations operating in those areas.

Gen. Reyes Lopez said all operations are handled from Santa Fe de Bogota, and only a few units of the Cali Metropolitan Police are being assigned to support each one of the deployments of the special force.

"A total of 445 raids have taken place since the beginning of the year," Gen. Reyes Lopez said. He added that "the results are obvious: Approximately 190 arrests have been made, including mid-level members of the criminal organizations; we have confiscated 190 tracking devices [buscapersonas], 102 communications radios, 203 unlicensed firearms, 68 vehicles, 28 motorcycles, and 15 aircraft. We have collaborated with international operations and have dealt hard blows to the financial networks of those criminal organizations."

The Special Force, which last Friday raided several offices at the Siglo Veintiuno Building in Cali, will continue their operations over the weekend.

Article Examines Leak of 'Narcocassettes'

PA1607232294 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 12 Jul 94 pp 1, 10A

[Unattributed article: "Who is Behind the Narcocassettes?"]

[Text] Who are those "Honorable Colombians" allegedly behind the case of the narcocassettes? So far, authorities do not have the slightest idea.

The Prosecutor General's Office, the Attorney General's Office, and security agencies are not certain who the members of this group are. Moreover, they do not know the motives of those who speak on behalf of "the country's leading class" and who maintain they "are fighting for an honest, not corrupt, Colombia." On several occasions, they delivered communiques and three tapes to the media recounting alleged monetary contributions by the Cali Cartel to at least one presidential campaign.

So far, it seems the investigating agencies are certain of only one thing: The Rodriguez Orejuela brothers' telephones are not the ones being tapped, but the phones of their friends are. In light of this fact, the recordings were made in Santa Fe de Bogota.

This also makes one believe that only a well-organized institution could tap numerous phone lines and could know who is talking to the Rodriguez Orejuela brothers. A source working in the security field said: "This is not an institutional operation, because if it were, these tapes would have emerged through institutional channels."

The source added: "It seems this operation was conducted by groups or individuals from institutions that have certain interests that have yet to be explained."

It is difficult to tap dozens of phone lines belonging to people who are obviously on the move, who are apparently using secure communication networks, and who, above all else, take precautions to keep their operations secret. Nevertheless, it is extremely easy to tap a phone line in Colombia—consider, for example, the case reported a few months back by SEMANAS magazine.

This is why the ability to perform this type of operation could only be found within departments of powerful institutions or drug trafficking organizations that have a degree of expertise in this area. The police, DAS [Administrative Department of Security], Army, Navy, Prosecutor General's Office, and Attorney General's Office are the only national institutions capable of this.

In terms of international organizations, the DEA and CIA are the obvious culprits, because they are interested in fighting drug trafficking. Also, the Cali Cartel itself could have done it, or perhaps one of its dissident groups, which would indicate there is internal division, a struggle for control of the cartel, or competition within the drug market. In other words, it could also have been the Medellin, Santa Fe de Bogota, Costa, or Pereira Cartels.

The Beneficiaries

Instead of investigating who tapped the phone lines, determining who is benefiting and who is not might yield better results. Undoubtedly, President-elect Ernesto Samper Pizano is the person who has been most affected, because, as he comes to power, he will have to prove how strong he is in dealing with drug trafficking. When questioned on antinarcotics policies, one high-level official source replied: On this issue, "one does not lead; one is led."

In addition, the narcocassette scandal has cast a handful of doubts on security agencies and, undoubtedly, on the political class that is repeatedly mentioned in the tapes.

In the end, these disclosures suit those who would like to see a stronger antinarcotics policy in Colombia—the DEA, the U.S. Government, and certain sectors within the police and Army.

Furthermore, it is believed that this could have been started by "the drug traffickers themselves, because it is a display of power without having to resort to planting bombs," the source added.

According to sources within the security agencies, there are only two groups interested in disclosing the recordings.

One of these groups wants the new government to start employing "an Aloquian-style kick" (in other words, to use the same military pressure exerted on the Medellin Cartel) against the Cali Cartel and the Valle Cartel drug traffickers.

The question is: What would these groups gain from pressing for an offensive against these cartels? Agencies such as the DEA and CIA would win a political victory, because they have been the ones who have strongly denounced the activities of the Cali Cartel and today are in question [en entredicho] by the Clinton Administration. Meanwhile, Colombian authorities would recover credibility that was somewhat shaken when it was said that the cartels had infiltrated the Armed Forces. Other drug traffickers, meanwhile, could benefit if the government began focusing attention on the struggle against the Rodriguez brothers and temporarily overlooked their activities.

The second group would include those bent on tainting President-elect Ernesto Samper's image. Samper's political enemies would be part of this group. They might be thinking that Samper will not assume office, and, if he does, he might not get support from the international community or the Colombian people.

Deep down, the only thing that seems to be clear in this huge scandal is that those who are in the bugging business are sending President-Elect Samper a message:

They will be a pebble in his shoe and can reignite the problem whenever they wish, because they do not seem to lack recorded material.

Who Are They?

These people claim to represent the country's main sectors and to be struggling for a decent country, free of corruption, according to an anonymous phone call received yesterday by EL TIEMPO. Meanwhile, state security agencies are reviewing various hypotheses.

Security agencies believe it could be a group of industrialists, police or Army officers, or even drug traffickers opposed to what they view as an overly lenient government policy in prosecuting and encouraging the surrender of Cali Cartel drug lords.

By the same token, however, according to intelligence sources, it is possible that the release of the tapes could be part of a plan by covert DEA agents who are using a front organization.

According to the same sources questioned by EL TIEMPO, these covert DEA agents might intend to generate greater pressure which would eventually result in an unprecedented campaign against the organizations that comprise the Valle Department mafia.

The analysis of the recordings by security agencies indicates that those behind the release of the cassettes have access to very sophisticated tracking [rastreo] equipment, considering the high-fidelity sound and superior editing, particularly in the first cassette.

How Do They Operate?

Ironically, the tactics used up until now by the "Honorable Colombians" to grab the attention of the media and public opinion are similar to those used by "The Extraditables"—the military arm of the Medellin Cartel—although their means of communication are different.

The new organization secretly sends written communiques that contain no specific identification. Communiques have been used to present each of the cassettes that allegedly link the political campaigns with the Cali Cartel drug lords.

They also employ telephone calls, but as a means to obtain information on how to send the accusations to the various media rather than to intimidate or sow fear, as the military arm of the Medellin Cartel did.

While "The Extraditables" used threats for a decade, the "Honorable Colombians" resort to calling attention to the current need to fight corruption and drug trafficking in an open political discourse.

The Fourth Cassette

While everything remains a mystery and analyses by the security agenies have yielded nothing but simple hypotheses, the Prosecutor General's Office and the Attorney General's Office have one more piece of evidence for their investigation—the existence of another recording sent to Defense Minister Rafael Pardo Rueda, who received it from National Police Director General Octavio Vargas Silva.

There is a new twist in this recording: an alleged conversation between journalist Alberto Giraldo and an unidentified speaker in which they are discussing procedures for sending a substantial amount of money destined for a political campaign to the nation's capital.

In addition to this recording, another recording was sent this weekend to international news agencies. This recording contains an alleged conversation between Jorge Eliecer Rodriguez Orejuela and a person identified as Omar, whom Rodriguez assures no money was given to the presidential campaign of Andres Pastrana Arango.

Meanwhile, the narcocassette web remains tangled, and the emergence of new recordings is expected—recordings released by a mysterious group whose interests remain unknown and whose structure remains an enigma.

Antinarcotics Official on Need for International Aid

PA1707215194 Santa Fe de Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 13 Jul 94 p 7A

[Text] While delivering a report on drug cartels operating in Colombia, Antinarcotics Police Director Leonardo Gallego stressed it will be difficult to fight these organizations without international aid.

Colonel Gallego explained that he believes "this problem requires the attention and efforts of all countries, both drug-consuming and drug-producing countries, including those that serve as bridges or transshipment zones for these products."

He also said multinational cooperation is absolutely essential, because huge investments are required to fight drug trafficking organizations and to guarantee good results.

Col. Gallego's statements came at a time when it was learned that a huge cocaine-processing complex was dismantled by drug police right in the middle of the Putumayo Department jungle, as part of Operation Seagull now under way in southern Colombia.

The complex comprised several laboratories and buildings that took up nearly four city blocks and were used to process cocaine. One person was arrested and a boat was seized. The boat had an outboard motor and was used to transport cocaine paste.

Col. Gallego's report shows that during the first six months of 1994, narcotics police conducted 844 operations against different drug trafficking activities and arrested 1,132 suspects. In these operations, 29 tons of cocaine base and pure cocaine were seized, and 100 tons

of marijuana, 793 hectares of coca plants, and 2,000 hectares of poppies were destroyed.

Narcotics police dismantled 288 laboratories, seized 1.11 million gallons of liquid chemical supplies and 267 tons of solid supplies, and disabled 180 vehicles and 23 small airplanes.

Cali Commander Denies List Links Police to Trafficking

PA1707223794 Santa Fe de Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 13 Jul 94 p 10A

[Text] Cali Police Commander General Jose Eugenio Reyes said yesterday he is not aware of any list linking police agents and high-ranking officers to drug trafficking.

The document was reportedly found during the search conducted by the Special Joint Command at Office 601 in the Siglo Veintiuno Building located on 4N 6-67 Avenue, where Guillermo Pallomari Gonzalez was captured. Gonzalez was identified by authorities as the alleged financial manager of Miguel Rodriguez Orejuela's wife.

Gen. Reyes refused to comment on the document other than to say he was not aware of such a list. "I do not know anything about it," he reiterated. Meanwhile, people passing themselves off as honest policemen sent a letter to the media disclosing the names of agents and officers who reportedly have connections with drug trafficking gangs operating in Valle del Cauca.

In other news, Regional Prosecutor Felipe Lopez said Guillermo Pallomari Gonzalez—a presumed cartel member known as Reagan—was released because there were no legal grounds to hold him any longer. Lopez added that Gonzalez was temporarily detained while his immigration papers were being investigated to determine whether they were in order.

Gonzalez had been summoned Monday to appear at the Regional Prosecutor General's Office, but he failed to show up. Lopez said another summons will be issue, and "if he does not come, a warrant for his arrest will be issued."

Lopez also called unwise the decision by Luis Alirio Moreno, First Penal Judge of Roldanillo District, to release Hector Jairo Urdinola. On Thursday, Moreno released Urdinola, who was arrested 15 days earlier with 100 kg of cocaine in his possession. The Prosecutor General's Office has issued another arrest warrant against Urdinola and opened an investigation against the judge.

Differences Between Authorities Hamper Drug Fight

PA1507184694 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 14 Jul 94

[From the "National Newscast"]

[Text] The outlook is gloomy in the struggle against the Cali cartel. Officials are now stepping on each other's toes. Differences between the Prosecutor's Office in Cali and the Joint Special Commando Unit, which is tracking the cartel, surfaced today. The director of the Technical Corps of the regional prosecutor's office has serious reservations about the commando unit's work:

[Begin recording] [Diana Maria Cardenas, identified by caption] I cannot make a very careful assessment of the intelligence work that they are conducting. But I can say that the results of their intelligence work leave much to be desired. Why? Because they sometimes conduct raids only because they see a luxury car or because someone is well off.

The major problem is that people are detained... [pauses] Problems arise because there is no proof and our process is based on proof. We cannot make detentions first and present proof later. I think that the most serious mistake is the failure to conduct intelligence work. Moreover, that intelligence work must undergo a judicial process via a special report that should be presented to the Prosecutor's Office. In the meantime, we are failing to achieve our goal.

[Unidentified reporter] Do you think that—given the way in which this work is currently being carried out—that at least a major leader of the Cali cartel might be detained, since nothing else has been achieved so far?

[Cardenas] No, I do not think that this is possible under current conditions, because things are being left to chance. There is a need for more intelligence information—but not only information: We also need to evaluate it. [end recording]

As for this criticism of the Special Joint Commando Unit, we talked to Deputy Prosecutor General Francisco Jose Sintura, who backed this criticism with concrete examples:

[Begin Sintura recording] I can refer only to a specific case: A Chilean citizen was detained in Cali but was freed the next day, or within 18 hours, because the Prosecutor's Office determined that there was no reason to deprive him of his freedom because he was neither caught in the act nor in any other circumstance meriting his detention.

According to reports I received, this drew reactions from people who have participated in these detentions. The Prosecutor's Office has received complaints about these procedures from people who were affected by them

apparently because... [pauses] They claim that intelligence work has not been carried out decisively or completely. But the Prosecutor's Office does not yet have confirmation of this. [end recording]

CIA Linked to 'Narcocassettes;' Existence of Video Reported

PA1807194294 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Canal A Network in Spanish 0130 GMT 17 Jul 94

[Report by Hans Sarmiento from the "AM/PM" newscast]

[Text] According to high-ranking Colombian and U.S. sources, the CIA is behind the interception of calls, accusations against President-elect Ernesto Samper, and the ensuing fallout. According to these sources, the CIA is using satellites, front companies, and even news agencies in Colombia.

A total of 12 intelligence agencies have been operating in Colombia in coordination with the CIA for the past two years under authorization from the Gaviria government. The satellite technology used to intercept telephone calls in pursuing Pablo Escobar has been employed over the past year to investigate the Cali cartel and its links with political leaders and Colombian authorities.

According to U.S. sources, there exist some 600 hours of recorded conversations similar to the narcocassettes that have been released so far. These sources also claim there are photographs that link Samper and other members of his political campaign to traffickers from the days of Carlos Ledher, as well as a very compromising videocassette that has not yet been released. With regard to the narcocassettes, the same sources say that since November the CIA has been intercepting calls made by journalist Alberto Giraldo from a girlfriend's telephone in Santa Fe de Bogota.

In this way, the espionage invasion permitted by Gaviria in the frantic pursuit of Pablo Escobar did not take into account that the drug traffickers' corruptive power had permeated state offices. Today, the gringos are taking advantage of the situation, even with the support of U.S. news agencies, to exert pressure in favor of political decisions against Colombia.

Security Presents 'Alarming' Profile on Subversion

PA1807192694 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 18 Jul 94

[From the "National Newscast"]

[Text] Guerrilla attacks focused on Cali early this morning and Santa Fe de Bogota over the weekend and started in three departments on 15 July. The most serious aspect of these attacks, according to DAS [Administrative Department of Security], is that they are just part of what the rebels have planned for the next few days. DAS has presented in a stern report an alarming profile on subversion in the country. According to the report, 249 municipalities are under guerrilla pressure, and very little is being done to keep them at bay.

Only the departments of Atlantico, Amazonas, Vaupes, and Guainia are free from a guerrilla presence. The DAS red map indicates the distribution of all the rebel groups in the country. Cauca, Choco, Antioquia, and Santander are the most targeted departments, because they have the presence of the ELN [National Liberation Army], the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia], and the EPL [People's Liberation Army].

According to the DAS report, the rebel groups have decentralized their fronts in order to cover the country more effectively, the basis of the new strategy that became operational with the terrorist actions of the past few days. DAS says the purpose of the rebels is twofold: to display their power to the new government and to influence the next elections for mayors and governors. The guerrillas seek to make the candidates commit themselves so the candidates can pressure the central government into holding regional peace talks.

The report adds the FARC is seeking to impose the topics up for discussion in the talks. The ELN infiltrates local organizations in order to obtain the people's support in the process. Finally, the report states, the EPL is busy reorganizing its ranks after its topmost leaders were captured.

The Defense Ministry budget is more than 1 trillion pesos, 20 percent higher than in 1993. The Defense Ministry is the state institution with the largest budget, above that of any other ministry. More than 200 billion pesos of this money are used to buy and update war materiel. In addition, 216 billion pesos are used to update Armed Forces intelligence and technology. There is no specific information on how much is earmarked for the various conflict zones in which the guerrillas operate.

The DAS report indicates the guerrillas, far from being diminished, are stronger now and have every available means for pressuring local officials:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Do you believe the government and the Armed Forces are yielding ground to the guerrillas?

[Government Minister Fabio Villegas] I do not believe the guerrillas have gained any ground, but they have increased their brutality and terrorism against the people. They are still powerful, of course, because they use kidnappings and drug trafficking as instruments to inflict much damage to the country's economy and the Colombian people. The rebels have lost ground, militarily speaking, particularly from a political viewpoint.

[Reporter] How far has the guerrillas' military and political power diminished according to government reports?

[Villegas] The guerrillas have lost ground in the country. The Armed Forces have increased their offensive capability through the creation of mobile brigades and the professionalization of their operations. The military, and the government they represent, keep gaining more and more ground in the country. [end recording]

President-Elect Willing To Negotiate on Rebels

PA1807185194 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 18 Jul 94

[From the "National Newscast"]

[Text] Commenting on the increase of guerrilla activity, President-elect Ernesto Samper has announced a new strategy that could lead to regional dialogues. In an interview with the French newspaper LE MONDE, Samper has said he is willing to negotiate with regional leaders in view of the guerrilla division.

He added the guerrillas' interests have changed, and they are no longer interested in reaching centralized power but, rather, mayoralties and seats in departmental assemblies. Samper added he will be able to pass, with a majority in the Congress, laws granting the guerrillas access to municipal and departmental governments.

Authorities Arrest Two Suspects in Putumayo Attack

PA1907044494 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Canal A Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Report by Juan Roberto Vargas from the "Seven O'Clock Newscast"]

[Text] Just moments ago, authorities made what could be the first significant discovery which could lead to solving the mystery surrounding the death of 17 soldiers in Putumayo. They arrested the first two suspected perpetrators of the attack, which was credited to guerrilla forces.

Police picked up two individuals in the town of Orito, Putumayo, just moments ago. The suspects were carrying jewelry and personal effects belonging to several of the soldiers who were killed in the bloody attack against an Army detachment stationed at a Colombian Petroleum Enterprise pumping station. The individuals are believed to be members of the 32d Front of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, which was blamed for the attack. They were arrested in the very center of Orito.

According to intelligence sources, several other suspects could be arrested shortly, based on the statements these two individuals might make.

Commando Operations Net Information on Cartels

PA1507155794 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 5 Jul 94 p 13A

[Text] The Armed Forces Special Joint Commando, charged with capturing Cali and Valle Cartel members, is now studying what could turn out to be the first significant source of information authorities have received on the activities of Jose Santacruz Londono.

A midnight commando operation on 18 May—undisclosed until now—dismantled a major comunications and information center directly related to Santacruz's activities.

The special commando units—a search bloc organized to crack down on Valle cartels—raided an apartment on the first floor of the Kris building on 18N street, #9N-46, owned by Amparo Santacruz, sister of Jose Santacruz Londono.

The search bloc found two Scanner ICR 900 systems, which according to the source are so high-tech that not even the state security organs have them.

A source explained that "through the use of these systems, it is possible to easily identify communications frequencies, including, most naturally, those used by the authorities." "With these same equipment—the source added—it is even possible to easily block microwave communications systems."

In fact, according to official sources, the scanners were used to intercept communications at any level, and when the user thought that the conversation might be significant, all they had to do was activate the system to obtain a simultaneous transcript of what was being said by the speakers.

Six independent computer systems and two central processing units with 15 terminals were also found in the same place.

Authorities have stressed that valuable information with respect to Santacruz's business activities was found in the central processing unit. Nevertheless, authorities were able to decipher the first access codes to the information stored in the computers only about a week ago.

This operation enabled the prosecutor's office to start a preliminary investigation into illegal enrichment and the establishment of dummy corporations.

During the first six months of the year, the Special Joint Command completed more than 60 searches of these corporations as part of the investigations aimed at determining how drug trafficking chiefs in that region of the country move capital funds.

According to an official report on the Commando operations to which EL TIEMPO had access, eight of the raids uncovered important documents that serve as

evidence for the cases against the Rodriguez Orejuela brothers. Other documents have made it possible to initiate investigations into illegal profits and dummy corporations.

One of the Special Commando's most recent operations was on the night of 19 June, while the Colombian soccer team played its first game during the World Cup in the United States. According to intelligence reports, Miguel Rodriguez Orejuela intended to watch the soccer match from a private office in the home of his second wife, Amparo Arbelaez.

The raid was on #19A on El Lago Avenue and Cocli Street, Ciudad Jardin neighborhood. The house was being remodeled. Official sources say there was a contract for the work valued at an estimated 600 million pesos. There was an office in the house where two computers were found. The data in these is being analyzed by the regional prosecutor's office.

What surprised the authorities most, however, was the presence of a private mini-library that belonged to Miguel Rodriguez Orejuela. At least 10 books by leading national personalities were inscribed with dedications, in some cases by the authors themselves. Some of these dedications hint at a special affection for the recipient of the book. Investigators came across dedications like this one, written by the former head of one of the country's most important official organizations: "To Miguel Rodriguez Orejuela, honorable citizen and distinguished professional, with my usual friendship." A book with a dedication written by a renowned poetess was also found: "To Miguel Rodriguez Orejuela, the most kind and straightforward man in friendship and the most upright person in every aspect of his life, with affection."

Another operation was conducted by the Special Commando in Cali two months ago. Several members of the Commando and the regional prosecutor's office raided the Publicity Group of the Communications Group, Inc., owned by Pedro Chang, president of the America Club in Cali. According to sources, the enterprise serves as a national public relations adviser to La Rebaja Drug Store and Distribuidora Migil of Cali, an import and export consortium.

Several documents, which are now being studied, were found at the Publicity Group of the Communications Group. One of these documents, called Payments, Special Payroll, has surprised investigators, because it contains the names of 20 people to whom 125,000 pesos were paid from 1 to 15 March. Authorities are investigating the activities of recipients of these payments.

The investigations by the Special Commando and the prosecutor's office have also reached people close to the Rodriguez Orejuela brothers. One of this year's first raids was on an apartment where, according to authorities, Miguel Rodriguez used to meet with a former beauty queen from Valle Department. Personal documents and several invitations to the marriage of one of Miguel Rodriguez's sons, that took place in Cali on 18 February, were also found.

Authorities also found the final guest list for the reception in honor of the bride and groom. According to the authorities, the two pages with the guests' names were handwritten by Miguel Rodriguez Orejuela and included several government officials.

Conservative Director Remarks on U.S. Ties, Party Meeting

PA1807165794 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Telephone interview with Fabio Valencia Cosio, president of Colombia's Conservative National Directorate, DNC, from an undisclosed location, by Caracol News Director Dario Arizmendi and an unidentified reporter in the network studio in Santa Fe de Bogota; from "Caracol's 0600 to 0900" newscast—live]

[Text] [Arizmendi] Do you know why the government had canceled the commission.... [pauses] the meeting of the Foreign Ministry Advisory Commission?

[Valencia] No. We simply received a message from the secretariat informing the meeting scheduled for today had been canceled, and no reason was given.

[Arizmendi] What was your position at this meeting going to be?

[Valencia] I have been saying for some time that mutual respect should prevail in order to facilitate good relations between two nations and that one nation should never meddle in the affairs of another. I have vehemently criticized the overflights of U.S. aircraft in the country and the lack of corresponding permits. I have criticized the presence of soldiers in Juanchaco without the corresponding permits. I have stated what we have here is a definite U.S. intervention in our internal affairs. The government has now informed of this issue and has assumed, I would say, a strong attitude befitting the seriousness of this meddling in our internal affairs. The government's position must be supported regarding the U.S. position, and all of these international matters that have caused so many problems for the country must be clearly explained.

[Arizmendi] As a parliamentarian, given a new session will be opened on 20 July, are you or the DNC planning to propose an initiative to attempt to resolve the current difficult, extensive, and complex relations [words indistinct] the two nations are waiting for the decision of a U.S. Senate commission?

[Valencia] I believe the best way to reestablish excellent relations with the United States is through mutual respect, and under no circumstances should there should be meddling in our internal affairs. There should be

respect for autonomy, respect for sovereignty, and cooperation should not be confused with submission. I believe good relations can perfectly well be established.

[Reporter] The foreign trade minister has dismissed the latest incidents, saying this happenstance most probably will not affect bilateral trade and other relations between the two nations; besides, he has said the State Department has not changed its longstanding position. One gets the impression matters are not as serious as they appear when one hears the foreign trade minister speak. Do you share this opinion?

[Valencia] I believe the situation with the United States must not be analyzed based only on the latest incident, in which the U.S. Senate decided to suspend aid to combat drug trafficking. I believe the development of relations with the United States during the past two or three years must be considered, as well as the previous dealings with other nations.

The United States usually exhibits a series of warning signs and then takes extreme measures; this is what I have been signaling to the nation all along. Perhaps the suspension of aid is not so serious right now, but one never knows what the United State's next step could be.

[Arizmendi] What is the.... [pauses] Why is the DNC meeting with its parliamentarians? What decision will they make?

[Valencia] We will assess the latest events in international policy during the DNC meeting tomorrow at 1500. We will, of course, inform all the parliamentarians of the conversations that have been held with the new government. We will also discuss the party's internal organization and the legislative agenda the conservatives will present to Congress. I believe this is a broad agenda, and there are many points to be discussed with all the party's parliamentarians.

[Arizmendi] Is cooperation with President-elect Ernesto Samper's cabinet up for discussion?

[Valencia] We will report to them the information we have, because as you know....

[Arizmendi, interrupting] What do you have?

[Valencia] It is simply that the president wants the party to cooperate. We have been analyzing a programmed agenda to find points of agreement. During the meeting, we are going to finalize the commissions upon which we have agreed with Minister Serpa. The commissions will study 15 points that may be a programmed agreement that could appear on a legislative agenda. We want all the congressmen to participate in this study and, of course, the government to decide how the participation will be in relation to the cooperation. We will also consult the party's rank and file.

[Arizmendi] Will the DNC have four or five ministries?

[Valencia] We have not talked about that issue at all. There has been no specific proposal [words indistinct]. We have said President-elect Samper will consider all aspects of the new, national, political scene, where the true balance of power was, or, better yet, the true electoral balance in the past elections. He will most certainly refer to this situation when he makes the offer.

Ecuador

Government Agrees To Pay $70 Million to Paris Club

PA1507154594 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2300 GMT 12 Jul 94

[From the "The Voz Andes Newscast"]

[Text] Quito—The Ecuadoran Government has signed an agreement to pay $70 million to the Paris Club after an agreement was reached with its biggest creditors. The amount corresponds to the portion of the debt coming due this year.

Reporting on negotiations with the banks, Finance and Credit Minister Cesar Robalino said the basic document stipulates that the amortization will be made in two installments. The first disbursement, totaling $34 million, will be made in December 1994. The second, totaling $36 million, will be made in 1995.

This is the range of the bilateral agreements reached with each of the Paris Club member countries.

Paraguay

Foreign Minister Calls Bombing in Argentina 'Barbarous'

PY1907015394 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 18 Jul 94 p 16

[Text] Our country, through the Foreign Ministry, has rapidly repudiated the attack against an Israeli institution in downtown Buenos Aires that killed and wounded many people. This morning the ministry was preparing a solidarity note addressed to the Israeli Government through its embassy in Asuncion.

"Barbarous" was the word used by Foreign Minister Luis Maria Ramirez Boettner to describe the terrorist attack.

The foreign minister said he would call the Israeli diplomatic mission during the morning to express his solidarity and support in this unfortunate situation.

The foreign minister made these remarks at the end of a meeting with President Juan Carlos Wasmosy at Government Palace. On the occasion, Ramirez Boettner introduced Nigeria's concurrent ambassador, Jaiycola, to the president.

The attack against the Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association (AMIA) in neighborhood 11, Buenos Aires, was carried out with a car bomb. The explosion totally destroyed the AMIA and neighboring buildings. No figures on the number of dead or injured are available at this time, although initial reports indicate there are many casualties.

Military Forces Command Announces Military Exercises

PY1807133394 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 15 Jul 94 p 4

[Text] In a communique issued by the Armed Forces Command, it has been announced that from the early morning hours of today until tomorrow at noon the Presidential Guard Regiment Special Task Group will carry out training exercises in the Aregua-Patino area.

It was also reported that over the next few days troops will be transported to the town of Mariano Roque Alonso, where the Army Command headquarters is located, to mark National Army Day on 24 July.

The information is supplied by the Armed Forces Command in order that the public might not be worried about the movement of troops.

Roundup of Economic Reports

PY1507154194

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on economic activities in Paraguay monitored through 14 July.

According to data disclosed by the Agriculture Secretariat on 8 July, exports of meat and meat by-products surged to 3,126,625 kg in June, thus totaling 10,704,941 kg for the first two quarters of the year. In June, Brazil became once again the largest importer of Paraguayan meat and meat by-products, accounting for 29.95 percent of Paraguay's exports and thus surpassing Chile, whose purchases represented 22.8 percent of Paraguayan exports. This spurt of sales in June has rekindled the meat-packing plants' hopes of exporting more than 20,000 metric tons this year, so as to be on a par with the 25,241 metric tons exported in 1993. Total volume figures for the first semester reveal that 24.51 percent of Paraguayan exports of meat and meat by-products were shipped to Chile, 20.64 percent to Israel, and 19.93 percent to Brazil. (Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 9 Jul 94 p 14)

Paraguayan Central Bank, BCP, President Jacinto Estigarribia Mallada has reported that BCP international reserves topped the $990 million mark on 7 July, thus consolidating the heavy gains recorded since mid-1993. Esigarribia explained that this increase in international reserves is due mainly to the payment of overdue financial obligations and interest, and monthly payments by the Itaipu Binational Agency. This agency paid $150 million from August to December 1993, and in the first five months of this year it disbursed $132.2 million to settle its debts. Estigarribia pointed out that another factor contributing to the surge in reserves is the inflow of Brazilian capital into Paraguay prompted by the political climate in that country preceding the October elections. The BCP president noted that the purchase of dollars by the BCP, the payments the Latin American Integration Association's clearinghouse made to Paraguay for its exports, and the interest gained in placing reserves in well-known foreign banks also accounted for this good performance by the international reserves. (Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 8 Jul 94 p 19)

On 7 July the World Bank approved a $50 million loan for Paraguay to fund a development project for the private sector. This project, the total cost for which is $89.95 million and which is expected to be completed by the year 2000, will be implemented by the BCP to foster private sector activities through the granting of medium- and long-term credit to companies and the strengthening of the Paraguayan banking sector. This will enable companies to overcome bottlenecks in securing financing for private investments and technical services. The loan has a maturity of 17 years, including a five-year grace period, and carries a variable interest rate, which at present stands at 7.27 percent per annum. (Madrid EFE in Spanish 2330 GMT 7 Jul 94)

Justice and Labor Minister Juan Manuel Morales announced on 8 July that in view of the reports submitted by the BCP on the increase in the cost of living over the last few months, the executive branch has decided to grant a 10 percent increase in the minimum wage, to be paid retroactive to 1 July. The minimum wage in July will thus be 379,500 guaranies. Morales underlined that "other measures will be taken to complement the possibility of improving the purchasing power of Paraguayans." He said that Industry and Commerce Minister Ubaldo Scavone will hold talks with representatives from retailer businesses, supermarkets, and grocers so that they may honor their commitment to maintaining price stability. (Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 9 Jul 94 p 11)

Peru

Intelligence Service Electoral Poll Shows Fujimori in Lead

PY1807134394

[Editorial Report] Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish on 4 July publishes on pages 2 and 3 a 1000-word unattributed article on a poll carried out by the National Intelligence Service (SIN) on voters' choices for the elections.

According to the article, LA REPUBLICA "gained access to this confidential SIN poll through reliable sources." The poll was carried out in Lima "among a cross-section larger than the 400 to 600 citizens normally consulted by private polling companies."

The results show that although he leads in the polls, Fujimori would not obtain an absolute majority in a first round of voting, and would have to run in a second round. In answer to the question "If the elections were held tomorrow, for whom would you vote?" 42 percent would vote for Fujimori, 26 percent for Javier Perez de Cuellar, 11 percent for Ricardo Belmont, 7 percent for Mercedes Cabanillas, 6 percent for Fernando Belaunde, 4 percent for Rafael Rey Rey, and 4 percent for "others."

In a second round of voting, in which the elections would have to be defined between Fujimori and Javier Perez de Cuellar, Fujimori would obtain 49 percent of the votes while Javier Perez de Cuellar would receive 46 percent. If the second round had to be determined between Fujimori and Belmont, they would obtain 67 and 25 percent of the votes, respectively.

According to the article, the SIN is thus optimistic about Fujimori's possibilities for reelection, believes his popularity is "increasing slowly but surely," and recommends that he "maintain silence and take more tours" of the interior. The SIN document states that the popularity of "Perez de Cuellar is also dropping. The appearance of new candidacies and party disputes will make him lose points. His lack of definition also harms him enormously."

Political Violence Statistics Released for May 1994

94WR0189Z Lima REPORTE ESPECIAL/DESCO in Spanish May 94 pp 4-5

["Special Report No. 37": "Political Violence in Peru Today," issued by Peru's Center for Development Studies and Promotion, DESCO]

[Text] This month, subversive attacks increased nearly 50 percent over the April figure. There was a decline of slightly under 25 percent in the number of victims, compared with April. During May, 107 subversive acts, causing the deaths of 67 persons, were reported.

Lima was again the scene of the largest number of subversive acts reported. A total of 51 (48 percent) were carried out by Shining Path [SL] in the capital.

The calling of an armed strike for 17-18 May required "Feliciano's" SL faction to intensify its forces, which attempted to gain notoriety primarily through action involving bombing and sabotage.

For the Ramirez Durand faction, the days preceding the Senderist strike call meant armed agit-prop [agitation-propaganda] action. However, they also engaged in acts of sabotage, preparing for the days of the "armed strike." The high points of these acts were the exploding of two car bombs, at an AFP [Pension Fund Association] and in front of a shopping center.

The "armed strike" called by the Senderists showed how weak this subversive group is in Lima. During those two days, they were only able to make 10 attacks, detonating small explosive charges. On 17 May, there were only serious restrictions on transportation until noon, and the 18th was a normal workday for Lima residents. Nevertheless, a week and a half later, SL took revenge against the transport workers, by setting fire to several units in Lima's low-income districts.

Second place for attacks was taken by the Jungle region, with 24 acts (22 percent). Ten of them involved confrontations held in Leoncio Prado and Tocache between the Army and Senderist columns, in what the Huallaga Front called the last actions of "Operation Aries." However, the SL's also ambushed the forces of law and order on as many as three occasions. The Huallaga Front reported that this operation culminated in the capture of 30 subversives.

The Principal region (Ayacucho and Huancavelica) ranked in third place. The subversives executed 18 attacks (17 percent), 16 of which were acts of sabotage against high voltage towers in various parts of Castrovirreyna Province. In Angaraes they blew up a freight vehicle, and in the city of Huancavelica they called for an "armed strike."

Fourth place was taken by the Center region, with six subversive acts (6 percent). Two of them were Shining Path confrontations with the forces of law and order, and two others were acts of sabotage against water systems in Huancayo. There was also harassment of an Army patrol by the MRTA [Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement].

The Northern region ranked in fifth place, with five attacks (5 percent). Here, they machine-gunned a congressman's car, sabotaged the North Peruvian Oil Pipeline, and blew up the Olmos municipal premises.

Sixth place was occupied by the Middle Northern region, with two attacks (2 percent). They dynamited a Bank of the Nation branch in Barranca, and called for an "armed strike."

Last place for attacks was taken by the Southern region, with one subversive act (one percent). In Melgar Province there was a confrontation between subversives and the forces of law and order.

Insofar as victims are concerned, ranking in first place was the Jungle region, with 60 deaths (90 percent). This figure attests to the battles still being waged in Operation Aries. Thirty-seven of these persons killed were from the subversives sector, 17 were civilians, four were members of the Armed Forces, and two were policemen.

There was a tie for second place between Lima and the Center, with three persons killed (4 percent). The victims were a business owner, a merchant, and a National Police officer. In the Center, an MRTA subversive was killed and two corpses were discovered.

Ranking in third place was the Southern regional committee, with two victims (3 percent). The SL suffered two casualties in a confrontation with the Army in Melgar Province.

Last place was occupied by the Principal region, with one victim (one percent). In the Principal region a subversive was massacred by a group of village community members.

Terrorist Attacks by Region: May 1994

Lima: 48 percent; Jungle: 22 percent; Principal: 17 percent; Center: 6 percent; Northern: 5 percent; Middle Northern: 2 percent; and Southern: one percent.

Victims by Region: May 1994

Jungle: 87 percent; Lima: 4 percent; Center: 4 percent; Southern: 3 percent; Principal: one percent.

Victims and Attacks by Regions in May

Lima Region:

Victims: FFAA*, 0; FFPP**, 1; Civilians, 2; Subversives, 0; Total, 3; Attacks: 52

Jungle Region:

Victims: FFAA, 4; FFPP, 2; Civilians, 17; Subversives, 37; Total, 60; Attacks: 24

Center Region:

Victims: FFAA, 0; FFPP, 0; Civilians, 2; Subversives, 1; Total, 3; Attacks: 6

Middle Northern Region:

Victims: FFAA, 0; FFPP, 0; Civilians, 0; Subversives, 0; Total, 0; Attacks: 2

Southern Region:

Victims: FFAA, 0; FFPP, 0; Civilians, 0; Subversives, 2; Total, 2; Attacks: 1

Principal Region

Victims: FFAA, 0; FFPP, 0; Civilians, 0; Subversives, 1; Total, 1; Attacks: 18

Northern Region

Victims: FFAA, 0; FFPP, 0; Civilians, 0; Subversives, 0; Total, 0; Attacks: 5

Totals: FFAA, 4; FFPP, 3; Civilians, 21; Subversives, 69; Attacks: 108

* Armed Forces ** Police Forces

Uruguay

Government To Support Ricupero for WTO Post

PY1607013494 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Text] Uruguay will support Ambassador Rubens Ricupero of Brazil in his bid for the post of director general of the World Trade Organization.

Foreign Minister Sergio Abreu has stressed that our country will support the Brazilian ambassador with its vote in the upcoming election for the top post of the organization.

Roundup of Economic Reports

PY1507164294

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on economic activities in Uruguay monitored through 14 July.

International Reserves, Domestic Credit

The Central Bank of Uruguay (BCU) reported yesterday that during the month of June the BCU Net International Reserves dropped by $5.3 million. Current net international reserves total $1.2746 billion. In June, the monetary base grew by $693.4 million. The Net Domestic Credit grew by $718.3 million. During the first six months, a 20 percent increase in nominal terms has been reported for the monetary base. (Montevideo EL PAIS in Spanish 6 Jul 94 Market Indicators Section p 1)

Domestic Prices and Income

In accordance with a decree issued by the executive branch, fuel prices have been increased by an average of 9.4 percent as of 2 July. Premium gasoline has been increased from 3.92 to 4.29 pesos; regular gasoline from 3.44 to 3.77 pesos; diesel oil from 1.70 to 1.86 pesos; and kerosene from 1.81 to 1.98 pesos. (Montevideo EL PAIS in Spanish 1 Jul 94 Market Indicators Section p 1)

In May, real salaries grew 2.6 percent as compared with those of April. So far this year, real salaries grew 2.9 percent as compared with those of December 1993. During the past 12 months, real salaries grew 2.1 percent. (Montevideo EL PAIS in Spanish 1 Jul 94 Market Indicators Section p 1)

Venezuela

Minister Repeats Opposition to Haiti Invasion

PA1907000794 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2220 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Caracas, 18 Jul (EFE)—Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Burelli reiterated today that Venezuela will not

support any military action to solve the Haitian political crisis that began with the ouster of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Burelli explained that "we support the restoration of democracy in Haiti because the previous government announced it, and in Venezuela we do not change foreign policy when we change administrations."

He reiterated, however, that "we do not advocate an invasion or intervention in Haiti, nor do we support forming a group that will take military action against that country.

Last week Venezuelan President Rafael Caldera said he feared an invasion and announced that Venezuela would not support it.

COPEI President Opposes Invasion

PA1807134094 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 Jul 94

[From the "Union Radio News" newscast]

[Text] Hilarion Cardozo, president of the Social Christian Party, COPEI, believes Venezuela should not participate in an invasion of Haiti. According to Cardozo, the antidemocratic precedence established by such an act would be very serious. Cardozo has said Venezuela's attitude toward the United States' plans for Haiti must be firm even if it is called a multinational peacekeeping force. In conclusion, the president said the international community must take action to defend democracy.

Interior Minister Escovar Interviewed

PA1607195494 Caracas Venevision Television Network in Spanish 1030 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Interview with Interior Minister Ramon Escovar Salom by "24 Hours" program host Carlos Fernandez in Caracas on 11 July; monitored in progress—live]

[Text] [Escovar] ...good day. Before we start, I want to say something very quickly. As of today, two telephone numbers will be open at the Interior Ministry to serve the public: 81-4898 and 81-5880.

[Fernandez] If you give me that piece of paper, I will be happy to repeat that announcement throughout the program.

[Escovar] Thank you very much. These numbers will be available for the public to report corruption, irregularities at the Diex [Sectorial General Directorate of Identification and Control of Foreigners], and so on. The caller will not be required to identify himself prior to giving his information to the Interior Ministry.

[Fernandez] The information will be handled confidentially.

[Escovar] Exactly. If they want to identify themselves, they may do so. If they want to provide information on their residence or telephone, they may do so. Otherwise, they can just report the information and try to obtain the name of the person receiving the information, because I want follow-up procedures to be taken. I want the people receiving the information to do something with it instead of just letting it sit around, as has happened in the past. I want follow-up.

We are beginning this process today, and as time goes by, we'll see what corrections are needed and what its faults are. I am not hoping to make this perfect but to make it something that will operate in favor of civilians. I hereby invite my fellow Venezuelans to use this service, which is an effort to keep in touch with civilian society in Venezuela.

[Fernandez] Now we must also be careful about this, because many times people make false reports out of personal vengeance.

[Escovar] That is where the government's judgment comes in, because the reports must obviously be analyzed. This could possibly lend itself to revenge and retaliation. I have some experience with this because when I was secretary general of the Presidency of the Republic, which was later converted into the Secretariat of the Presidency Ministry, we used to receive anonymous reports at Miraflores. I also had the same experience at the Interior Ministry, the Prosecutor General's Office, and other ministries for which I have worked. This happens often, and we must be careful about it. In any case, this information is important for the government and for the Interior Ministry in particular.

I will now answer your question.

[Fernandez] We originally asked Dr. Ramon Escovar Salom about the fact that today, Monday—that is why I say the week is beginning with significant events from a news point of view—will see the reopening of the foreign exchange market and whether there could be some confusion. I think it is important for the government to give some basic guidance and to do some follow-up work.

[Escovar] Last week I was in touch with several bankers who expressed concern on how this will operate. Even though this is not the responsibility of my ministry—it is the Finance Ministry's and the Venezuelan Central Bank's job—I have taken an interest in the matter. These are the facts: It isn't easy to start something like this. Many things need to be coordinated, such as bureaucratic and administrative matters and other points of a strategic nature. Of course we cannot expect this to be 100 percent right at the very beginning, especially as we have had previous traumatic experiences. The most recent experience was Recadi [Differential Exchange System], and everyone knows where that left us. Let's see how the foreign exchange market behaves. We will probably need to make certain corrections as we go along. I cannot say what corrections because I am not directly responsible for this matter. The important thing is that it begin to operate.

[Fernandez] Nevertheless, there is a part that has to with a decree dealing with....[pauses] Of course, this draft bill on exchange crimes must first be submitted to the Council of Ministers and then Congress for approval. Because this draft bill establishes a punishment and a police investigation, the Justice Ministry is also involved.

[Escovar] Indeed. These crimes are very complex. An unprecedented practice is beginning to take place in Venezuela. We will wait and see whether it can contribute to embedding the concept that certain crimes cannot go unpunished in Venezuela.

[Fernandez] There was a very effective and conclusive project....

[Escovar, interrupting] It is very conclusive, an effort to penalize certain activities. This is, of course, an effort that tackles the effects. We need to confront the causes of this problem beyond the effects. The banking and financial problem has other roots, and we must understand these measures are not the ones that will solve the problem definitely. There are other causes, where the true source of the problem lies, which we need to tackle.

There will be a strong response to the way certain crimes are being committed in Venezuela. We must end impunity, sinecure, and the belief there are two types of justice in Venezuela: one for the weak and one for the powerful. All of this is very important, but we also need another analysis. We must avoid dichotomy and polarization; that is, we must avoid having a good side and a bad side. Not all businessmen, bankers, and tradesmen are criminals.

[Fernandez] This situation is causing certain apprehension, because we have heard the Venezuelan financial, business, trade, and industrial sectors, which feel they are being attacked, accused, and blamed for a situation, are uttering certain expressions. It could well be that certain bankers, businessmen, and industrialists have followed unethical paths, as Venezuelan society has pointed out. What you are saying, however, is true, that not all of them are involved in criminal activities.

[Escovar] It is very dangerous to introduce such a large splinter in Venezuelan society, a splinter that could polarize the country into two groups: good and bad. This cannot be. We must unite to achieve national unity and reconciliation. We must also make a big effort to earn the people's goodwill, to reconcile, and, above all, to unite the country around common projects and goals.

Making a true commitment is very important. The prevailing problem in Venezuelan, this crisis we are experiencing will be resolved by reaching an enormous consensus, by making a commitment toward certain goals, and by implementing a national medium- and long-term project.

National unity and the country's support for the president of the Republic are very important issues. It is very important for the country to be united around the president, because President Caldera is not only the chief of state but also the essential point of reference for the country's national unity. Thus, we Venezuelans must attempt to ensure the president's policies will have the country's needed stability, scope, and undivided support.

[Fernandez] There are certain differences, however; we could even say there is an inequality here. Today's reopening of the foreign exchange market made bankers ask some questions. For instance, they maintain they cannot start selling foreign exchange to meet the nation's pressing needs, such as the importation of goods and raw materials, the sending of dollars to students abroad, and the buying of dollars for business trips. In short, the situation is still somewhat shaky.

[Escovar] I do not doubt it, but I cannot give details, because I do not have enough information. We must wait until certain problems are solved. I do not doubt, of course, these mechanisms have certain shortcomings.

[Fernandez] They need time.

[Escovar] Yes. The important thing is that they have a good start. We need to be humble here, because we need to mend mistakes as they appear. Allowing mistakes to pile up is a mistake in itself, as is sticking to erroneous policies. This is commonplace in all governments that refuse to acknowledge their mistakes.

I have always believed, not only in my public life but also in my private life, mistakes must be promptly corrected, because when one quickly acknowledges a mistake one can mend it in time. There have been cases in the past. I do not want to dwell on those instances, but I know of very dramatic cases in recent years that have occurred resulting from certain governments' intention to entrench themselves in their mistakes and continue denying them. They would rather continue defending their mistakes.

I believe when one makes a mistake, one must acknowledge it and rectify it immediately. I do not deny there may be mistakes or doubts, but we must try to eliminate these doubts and restore confidence in the country. No foreign or local investments will take place if there is no confidence. The major issue is establishing and generating confidence. The country must have a coherent, not contradictory, program of economic recovery.

[Fernandez] The first reactions received from abroad coincide with your remarks: the idea of uncertainty and mistrust. Investors, for instance, want to have clearer rules of the game.

[Escovar] Yes. I believe Venezuela is on the brink of defining new rules of the game, not only in the economic and financial area but also in the political aspect. What we have here is a problem of power redistribution, national redefinitions. The issue, what is referred to as the change....

[Fernandez, interrupting] But it will not be circumstantial; this situation will not last for another five years. Will it? It will not be a product of mistakes made in the near past. A government term lasts five years, and we assume the coming five years will be used for further improvement.

[Escovar] Hopefully.

[Fernandez] Particularly regarding the country's ethical and moral aspect, which has hurt Venezuelans the most.

[Escovar] Definitely. This will require considerable effort, and that is why national reconciliation and unity are pivotal. Venezuela will be unable to move forward without these conditions.

I find it somewhat amusing when I hear this or that incident will tarnish Venezuela's image abroad. Venezuela's image abroad cannot be any different from its image here. If a number of circumstances have already tarnished Venezuela's national image, no one can expect a good image abroad. Image is not an esoteric and abstract concept, but it is based on concrete actions.

[Fernandez] What happened here is that government officials generously promoted and financed a campaign in the past to sell an image of Venezuela abroad that did not reflect our true situation.

[Escovar] That image did not reflect our situation, and that is why it collapsed. All these ideas that became fashionable in the area of international politics eventually collapsed. These ideas were worthless, because they did not have any foundation or substance; they were all fluff, and this is not enough to design a foreign policy or build the image of a country.

The point here is the country's image will depend on the degree of stability exhibited by government policies and the country per se. Concerning stability and confidence, international organizations have a clear idea of the Venezuelan situation, because they have the facts and figures. With current technological advances, the IMF or the New York Stock Exchange are able to immediately learn about new developments, including the true financial situation of any country in the world. A country's finances have become instant, worldwide information, leaving no room for deceptions. The problem is thus a domestic one. We must reestablish confidence here in order to project confidence abroad.

[Fernandez] I want to ask a question concerning Venezuela's international image. Regarding the security problems that occurred in the last few weeks, certain people have complained to Amnesty International and other human rights organizations, giving the impression human rights are being violated in our country. Let us also recall a recent incident, that of Carlos Andres Perez, who is trying to take his case to international courts, because he insists his rights are being violated. This situation could also mar our country's image abroad. We were concerned last week about the behavior adopted by certain officials who were linked to alleged irregularities such as conspiracies and others.

[Escovar] I want to start by saying human rights are indeed being violated in Venezuela; we cannot deny it. I said it many times as attorney general, and I am repeating it now as interior minister. The government has pledged to correct this situation, however. There are a number of weaknesses, of course; for example, the penitentiary system is rife with big problems that cannot be solved suddenly. I told this to the Amnesty International representatives who visited Venezuela not long ago. Concerning the latest raids, which I have already explained many times, there were no human rights violations whatsoever while we conducted them. I am emphatically denying there were human rights violations during the raids. I want to say, however, even within the framework of the suspension of guarantees, I ordered police authorities to be more cautious to ensure there will be no violations. I totally disagree with a number of tactics the Venezuelan police use to curtail personal freedom.

[Fernandez] It was even said in certain cases the raids were conducted without your approval.

[Escovar] I have clearly explained this issue. I emphatically stated I ordered the raids in general terms. There could have been some deviations from the guidelines of my authorization, a possibility we will have to analyze, because I also want an explanation. This does not mean, however, I was ignored or disobeyed. It would be the end should the interior minister fail to know what is going on. I do not want anyone to think, however, the interior minister authorized the use of certain tactics during the raids.

[Fernandez] Many things were said about the raids, and I am sure you became aware of them through the media. It was said the order came from the secretariat of the Presidency Ministry, not from the Interior Ministry. It was even said President Caldera and Escovar Salom disagreed. In short, there were a number of speculations going around.

[Escovar] I gave explanations in these studios during another program hosted by Alfredo Pena on 7 July. We talked about this issue then. The context of the question is the important issue here, the international effects. I know the international public opinion is concerned, but I believe the government can explain what it is doing with regard to this issue. Returning to the previous topic, I want to insist on the need to attain a harmonious atmosphere of conciliation. I am very interested in the case of the businessmen, because we cannot generate jobs if there is a lack of trust.

[Fernandez] Of course not.

[Escovar] Who can generate jobs? The production agents, namely businessmen, men promoting economic activities and having the initiative to create jobs and an atmosphere favoring economic recovery. I also want to

say we must not generalize, because we cannot accuse all bankers, businessmen, and tradesmen. This is a very important concept. We must punish speculators, however; the government has the authority to do so.

[Fernandez] The government must have enough determination to face irregular situations.

[Escovar] Correct. We must protect society, consumers, and the people. We cannot allow speculation to run amok; we must penalize speculation.

[Fernandez] Business sectors insist, however, the government decisions are not fostering a suitable atmosphere to continue job creation.

[Escovar] This is exactly at what we must aim. We want to achieve a climate of trust to ensure the country will know where we are heading. We want to define a unified economic policy to ensure the country will clearly see the path we will follow. Those who want to invest in Venezuela, nationals and foreigners alike, must be sure of their investments here. An economic crisis such as the one we are currently experiencing will not make this easy, of course. The crisis will not be resolved in 24 hours. I repeat: The problem will not be solved quickly; it will be solved if we adopt unified policies and make timely decisions.

[Fernandes] That is very important. Our viewers are going to ask questions now. As always, I am going to ask you to give us brief answers.

We have a complaint from Eudecio Ramos Barrios who says his home has been searched. According to him, his home has been searched, and there is an industrialist in Ciudad Guyana who is using his economic power to promote this type of action. This problem is for comment by Interior Minister Escovar Salom.

There is also a plea from Pariaguan, Anzoategui State: Please, we need help from the police; the situation is very unstable.

There are several questions regarding the DIEX [Sectorial General Directorate of Identification and Control of Foreigners].

From San Agustin we hear complaints on the sale of stamps scandal, other irregularities, and the fact 15,000 bolivars are charged in exchange for citizenship. It is said officials are still asking for that amount to do their work.

We hear from Petare old people, women, and children were arrested during a DIEX search. Old people should not be arrested.

From San Agustin we hear none of the people allegedly arrested during the DIEX search are being held in San Agustin. Find out what happened, Dr. Escovar. Do you have anything to say about this?

[Escovar] Some of these points may be true. I am especially interested in what they say about the old people. I was unaware of that point. I would like to tell your viewers ministers are not always aware of all that is going on. Many people believe the ministers must be aware of everything. For example, I had no idea of this, and I am going to look into the arrest of the old people. If it turns out to be true, I will take the appropriate measures. As I said earlier, the government is not interested in hurting the people. Those involved must be punished or reprimanded on time if there is abuse.

[Fernandes] A person has called from Candelaria asking whether she will have to turn in her dollars if she travels abroad and returns with the currency. She is not clear on the draft bill announced by the president on the new measures and on the withholding of dollars for those individuals involved in import and export activities. I do not believe the situation will reach such extremes.

[Escovar] The best thing the caller can do is wait for all the measures to be made public. There is much confusion at this time. We are going from one system to another, and new measures are being adopted. This is why the situation is confusing. Wait until the measures are announced and made public to know what is going to happen.

[Fernandes] I will give you some of the questions our viewers have asked so that you can follow up on them.

[Escovar] Thank you.

[Fernandes] Thank you, viewers; thank you for your questions and calls. There is a question being asked by residents of El Marquez. They want to know about the Cubans who reportedly requested political asylum in Puerto Cabello. Do you have information on this request?

[Escovar] Nothing more than what I have already said. I would like to take advantage of this opportunity, however, to clarify something else. We are not stopping refugees from coming to the country. What we are trying to avoid is the entry of those who are using the term of refugees to enter the country when they are not really refugees. The country cannot indiscriminately accept people. I, as interior minister, oppose an irresponsible open door policy for foreigners who come to Venezuela. Their purposes are not always defined. There are times they claim to be refugees when they are not. This is all part of a business. They want to bring people into the country claiming they are refugees when they are not. I will be meeting with the UNHCR [UN High Commission for Refugees] representative in Caracas. I already met once with him, but I will meet with him again, because I want to discuss this situation with him. According to UN laws, real refugees have no problems entering Venezuela.

I am not talking about the case of the Haitian refugees; that is something else. We must be very clear about the Haitian refugees. Venezuela will not accept Haitians based on what was originally requested. We are not going to accept them. The foreign minister has already made

statements in this regard. We are not going to accept Haitian refugees. I was watching your station's newscast before this program began, and you showed clips of how the United States is stopping a massive entry of Haitians into the United States. There is no reason why they should enter Venezuela if they cannot enter the United States.

Minister Reports Plot To Dissolve Congress

PA1907010294 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Report by Cecilia Cayone; from the "Union Radio News" newscast]

[Text] Summoned by the congressional joint commission responsible for studying the decree suspending constitutional guarantees, Defense Minister General Rafael Angel Montero Revette told that body that the suspension of constitutional guarantees was necessary to avert a subversive plot. He added that according to information provided by the Directorate of Military Intelligence, DIM, this subversive plot was intended to dissolve the National Congress and replace it with a constituent assembly.

[Begin recording] [Montero] We have a substantial amount of information on the shortage problems that would presumably occur in the country. A forum was held to plan the so-called Day of the Revolt. In addition, major activities were scheduled to begin on 15 June as part of a plan to agitate the masses. A meeting was held in May to promote protests that would eventually lead to a full-fledged social explosion called Zero Hour, which would last for two months. All this planning took place in May. The main goal of the plot was to dissolve Congress and convene a constituent assembly. [end recording]

The defense minister added that this plot to agitate the masses became more obvious with the increasing violence manifested during street protests. He also said they have information which indicates that there might be new disruptions of public order when the new school year begins in October. Minister Montero Revette said that for those reasons he believes constitutional guarantees should remain suspended until all available information is verified.

Gen. Montero also announced that three persons who tried to introduce counterfeit dollars into the foreign exchange market were arrested on Monday. DIM Director Gen. Wilfredo Guerrero Serpa said the DIM is investigating these persons to determine whether they belong to an organization or if they acted on their own.

The joint commission also summoned Andres Caldera, minister of the Secretariat of the Presidency, who said constitutional guarantees should remain suspended until Congress approves several laws designed to fill the void regarding financial crimes and speculation in the country.

[Begin recording] [Caldera] Inasmuch as I am the liaison between the president and other government branches, and as secretary of the Council of Ministers, I am aware of the president's reasons for having the Council of Ministers issue this decree to suspend guarantees. It is not my responsibility to implement these measures. I know, however, that the searches that have been conducted have not only been related to destabilizing factors. I have National Guard reports that many searches have resulted in the seizure of 250 million bolivares in hoarded goods. If guarantees had not been suspended, these goods would have never been uncovered.

Likewise, regarding the struggle against the black market—a very important effort the country is undertaking at this time—as long as the president does not have the legal mechanisms which allow him to take action in such cases, reinstating guarantees would be tantamount to stimulating speculation. [end recording]

These draft bills include reforms to the financial emergency law, the penal law on exchange regulations, and the consumer protection law.

Remaining Officers Tied to Coup Attempt Freed

PA1807201594 Paris AFP in Spanish 2136 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Caracas, 16 Jul (AFP)—Commander Eliecer Otaiza, last of the military officers arrested in connection with the two 1992 coup attempts, was freed in Caracas on Saturday after receiving a presidential pardon, it was officially announced.

Otaiza, who deserted the Army in 1992, participated in the November 1992 military upheaval and was seriously wounded while attempting to take over Miraflores Presidential Palace. The officer was arrested and underwent operations in the military hospital.

Due to his delicate health, Otaiza could not be freed one month ago with the last group of officers, which included General Francisco Visconti, leader of the November 1992 coup attempt who stayed in Peru under asylum for more than a year.

Upon dismissal of his case (definitely suspended) and freed on Saturday, Otaiza was discharged as unfit for active military duty and will receive a pension for life. [passage omitted]

Suriname

Government Announces Uniform Exchange Rate

FL1607011494 Castries ITS Caribvision Television in English 1945 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Text] The Surinamese Government this week announced that it had fixed a uniform exchange rate for the country's economy. This measure was taken to get rid of almost eight exchange rates which were in various sectors of the economy. The black market is forbidden

and civilians are now only allowed to buy currency at banks and cambios. As we hear this [words indistinct], uniform exchange rate has dislocated the Surinamese economy.

[Begin unidentified reporter recording] Merchants are dissatisfied with the level of the exchange rate that was settled on 178 guilders for one U.S. dollar and 104 for one Dutch guilder. The exchange rate will be fixed daily by the Central Bank of Suriname. Most businessmen have paid [number indistinct] guilders for one U.S. dollar. They are losing 20 guilders on a dollar. Yesterday, the gas companies did not deliver gas to the service stations. It was not clear to them what will be the new gas price, which import tarriff will be handled, and how the government is going to pay them. The Ministry of Trade and Industry and the police will closely supervise the black market. To keep the uniform exchange rate steady, the black market has to disappear. The Minister of Finance Humphrey Stanley Hildenburg expects that this will happen. The question is will the government be able to satisfy the demands for foreign currency as imports without [word indistinct] of foreign exchange to the Central Bank is now prohibited. To lower the demand for foreign currency, the government has stopped the import of some goods. It is expected that the prices of public utilities will increase. The government is still collectively subsidizing electricity, gasoline, and water. However, these subsidies will soon only be given to individuals who answer to some criteria.

The opposition parties in a national assembly last week protested against the fact that they do not have enough information about the effects of the uniform exchange rate. The Suriname Labor Party and the KPPI, two of the New Front Coalition parties, bid to postpone the date of the introduction of the uniform exchange rate. The Surinamese Government has now officially devaluated the Surinamese guilder that was a fixed 180 for one U.S. dollar to almost 100 times that amount.

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